



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

WINNERS INSIDE

KIDS
YOUNG ARTISTS
COMPETITION!
BROUGHT TO YOU BY BOSTIK

Win a weekend getaway for your mum!

KIDS

DARE TO EXPLORE
www.ngkids.co.za

ANIMAL ARCHITECTS

AT WORK

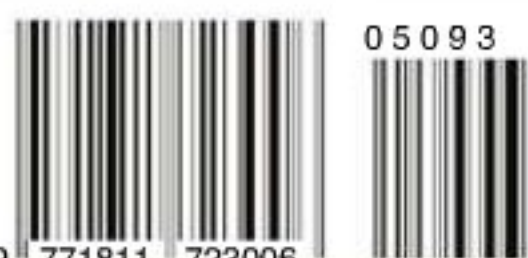


WACKY LANDMARKS

HURRAY FOR HORSES!

NG KIDS breaks Guinness World Record!

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



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Issue 93 May 2012 R26,95 (VAT incl.)

Nintendo 3DS 3D PHOTO CONTEST



Have fun with your Nintendo 3DS!

Take 3D photos with your Nintendo 3DS system and enter them in our photo contest!

Pick any of the 6 categories and capture your picture in 3D:



Animals



Augmented Reality



Objects



People



Places



Plants

The Nintendo 3DS 3D Photo Contest opens
End of April until 17th June 2012

Take some creative 3D shots that you think deserve a top spot in one of our six categories.

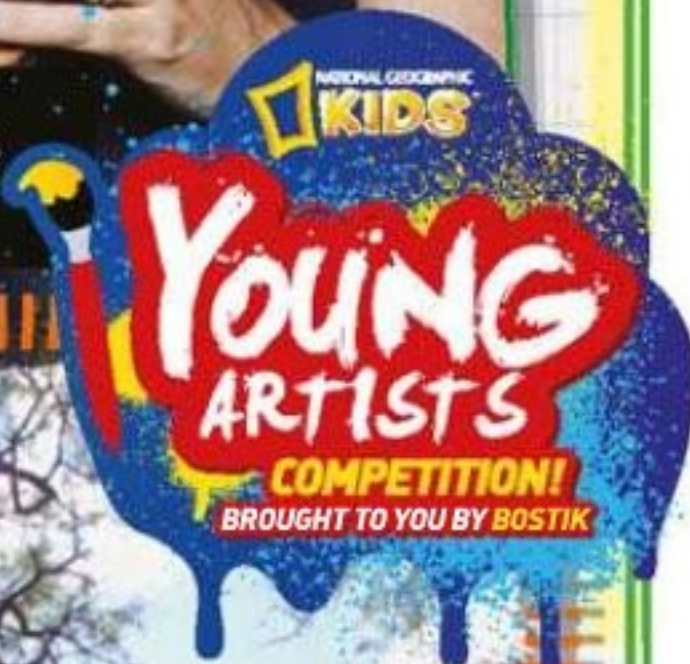
It's simple to enter - Just register on our website by using our easy to use Nintendo 3DS internet browser on your Nintendo 3DS then upload your photos directly onto the site! This is where you can also check out the competition in each category and find out more about our awesome prizes!

HI, KIDS



WHAT A TALENTED LOT!
CHECK OUT THE WINNERS
OF THE YOUNG ARTISTS
COMPETITION.

BEWARE OF THE
THORNS, LUKE!



We had a really fantastic response to our readers' survey in the February issue. Many thanks to all of you who let us know what you think of the magazine. The good news is that we are doing something right as the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. We got some great ideas from you, too. Congratulations to Bianca Vogel of Odendaalsrus who won the family bush holiday at Madikwe Game Reserve.

Some of you have been asking – and not just in the survey – for more on horses. Check out our horsey cover star and feature about seven wonderful horses. Horses are my favourite animals. I used to ride when I was a kid – a horse called Equi.

My mum rode at the same stables and did much more as well. She helped out doing whatever she could, from endlessly grooming horses to mucking out. She even trained a horse – a spirited young Arabian that nobody else could ride – by gaining his trust. I thought she was very brave.

As it's Mother's Day this month, think of all the things that you admire about your mum and tell her that you love her, of course. She might also like some of our handy gift coupons (page 44).

Happy Mother's Day, Mum!

Dare to Explore!

Fiona

PS I'd also like to hear what you get up to during the Easter holidays!



MY MUM WITH HER HORSE CALLED LOVE.

FIND ME!

Rhinos are in trouble! To create awareness, we hid ten rhinos on the pages of the magazine! Here's one, but can you spot all ten?

LETTER OF THE MONTH

DEAR FIONA,

MY NAME IS LUKE HOWARD AND I LOVE READING NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS AS I AM INTERESTED IN CRYSTALS, ANIMALS AND PLANTS. I'M COLLECTING AS MANY MAGAZINES AS I CAN!

MY SCHOOL IS ST GEORGE'S IN WINDHOEK AND I AM DOING A SCIENCE PROJECT ON THE CAMEL THORN TREE. LOTS OF BIRDS AND SPIDERS LIVE IN IT. THE TREE'S SEED PODS AND LEAVES ARE VERY USEFUL. THE BRANCHES THAT DROP OFF ARE THE BEST FOR WINTER BRAAI FIRES.

WE LOVE OUR TREES AND THIS ONE ON OUR PLOT OUTSIDE WINDHOEK IS DECADES OLD. WE LOVE TO PLAY IN AND UNDER IT BUT THE THORNS CAN BE DANGEROUS!

WARM NAMIBIAN REGARDS,
LUKE, 10, WINDHOEK

SUBSCRIBERS OF THE MONTH

The May subscribers of the month are Anje Kruger, 10, Worcester; Nadia Jansen van Vuuren, 8, Worcester; Josh Phillips, 11, Morningside; Nirette Smith, 10, Rivonia and Juanita de Kock, 11, Tulbagh.

To celebrate the release of *One Life*, a brilliant documentary illustrating various animals and organisms and how we are all connected, lucky subscribers have each won a copy of the *Inside Life* DVD, valued at R203 each. It's based on the journey of ten kids to observe the making of *Life*, proving documentaries are not just for adults, but also very educational for kids.

Showing at cinemas now.

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WRITE TO US!

Send us your letters, birthdays, pictures and comments. We want to hear from you, so start writing!

- Write to us at: The Editor, NG KIDS, PO Box 2271, Cape Town 8000.
- Send us an e-mail to fiona@ngkids.co.za or SMS* us a letter to "NGK Letters" 33970.

* Standard rates apply for MMSs, so ask your parents first! SMSs cost R1.50. Free SMSs do not apply. See www.ngkids.co.za for terms and conditions.

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Inside

Hooray for horses

Meet seven awesome horses.

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Young Artists Competition Winners

We announce our winners and show their winning artworks!

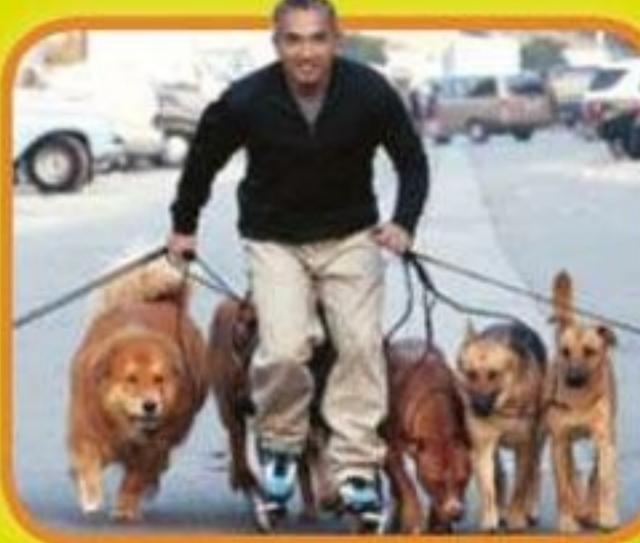
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Discover how different animals build.



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On the Cover

COVER PHOTOGRAPH ©GREATSTOCK / CORBIS

COVER INSETS: © USDA, APHIS PPO-HIA BEAGLE BRIGADE (DOG); © CHLAUS LOTSCHER/PHOTOLIBRARY (BIRD)

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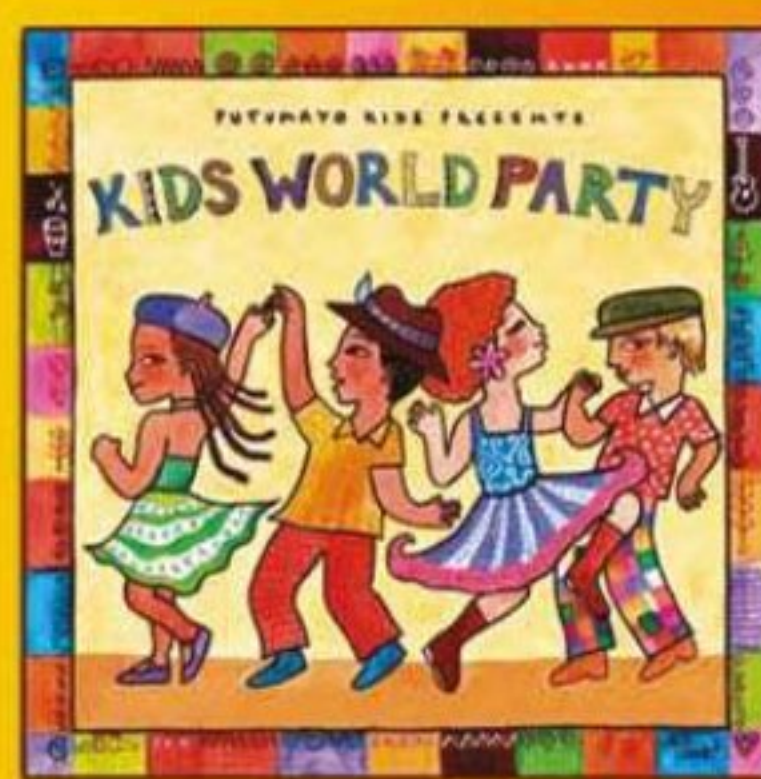
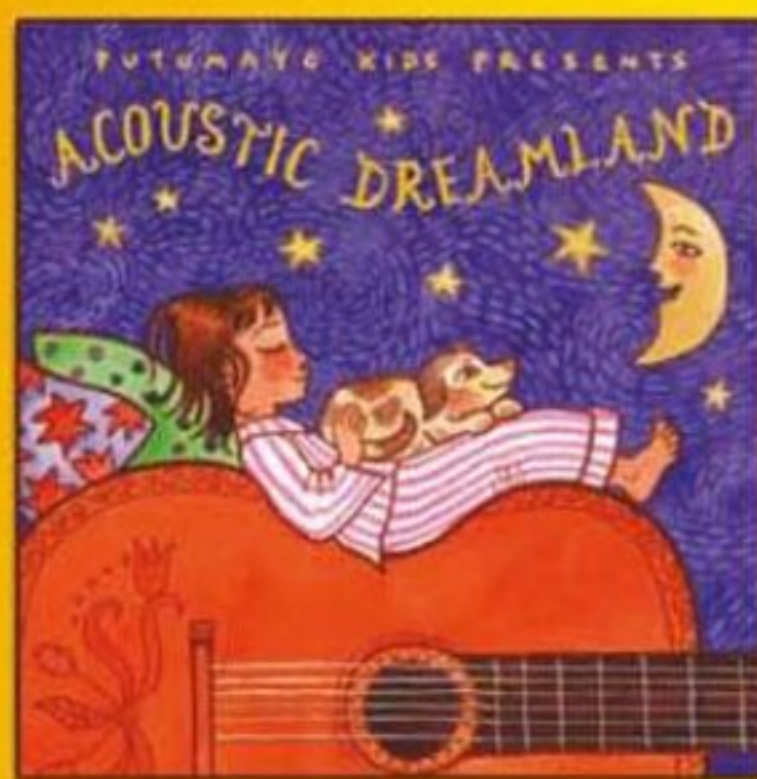
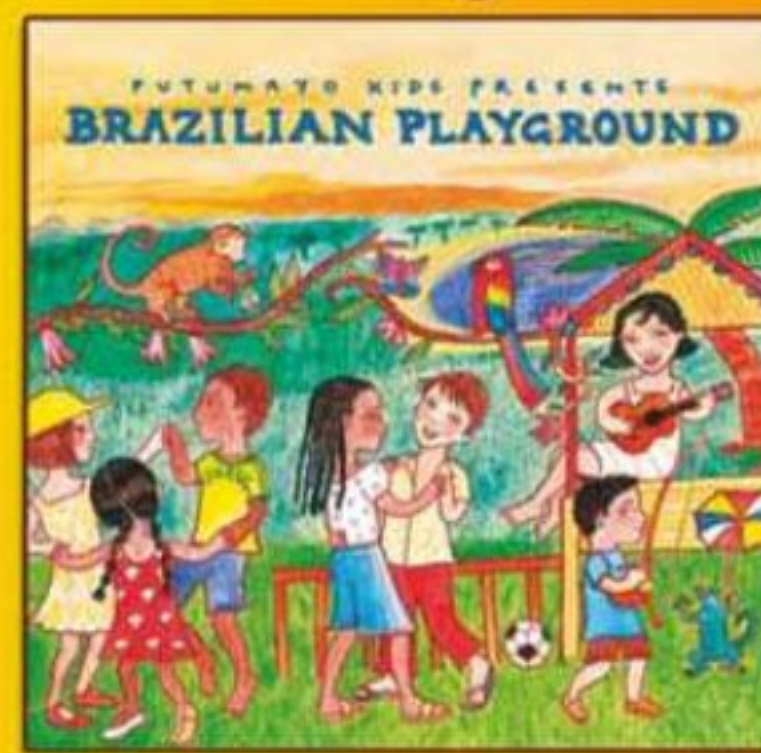
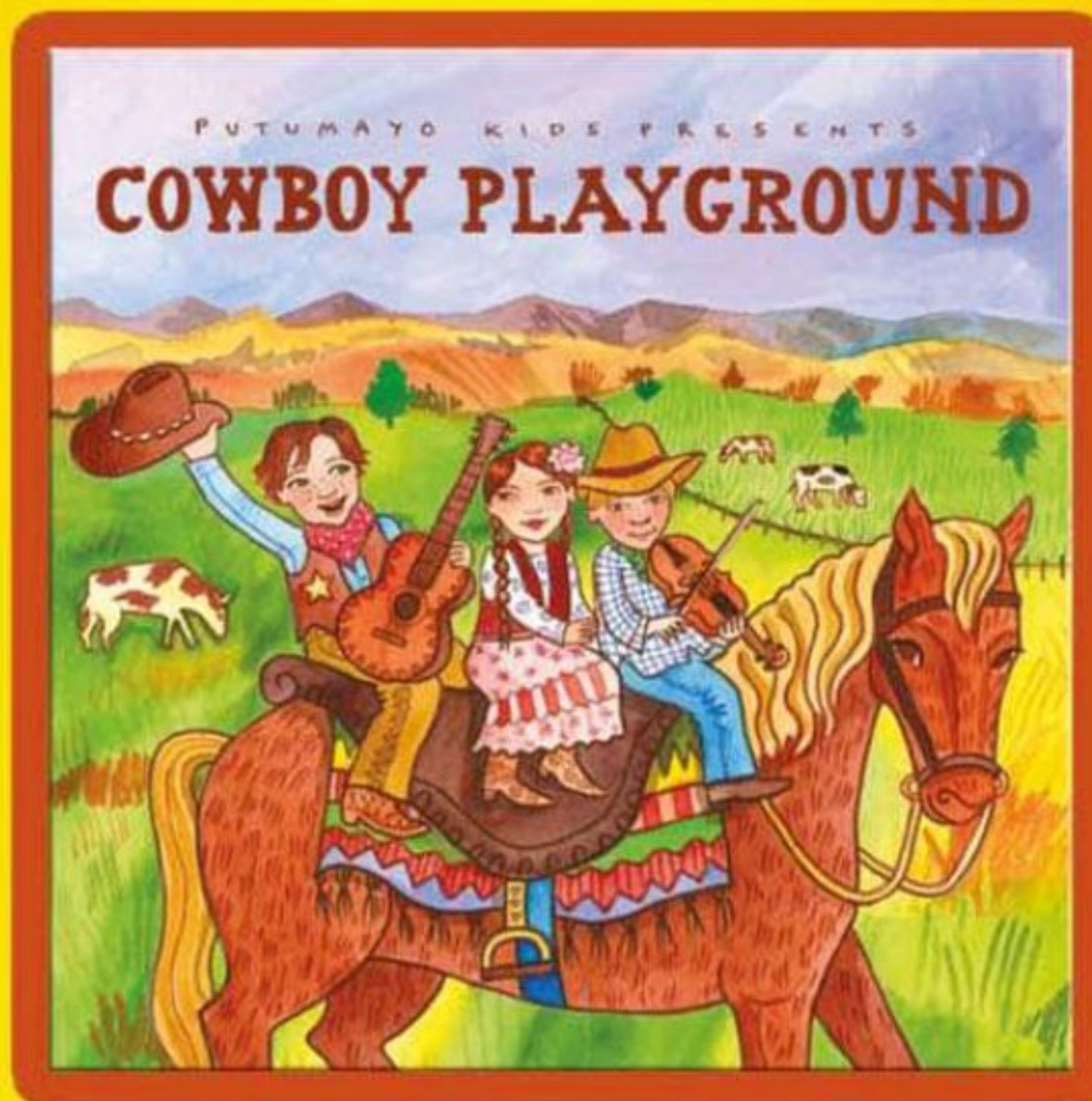
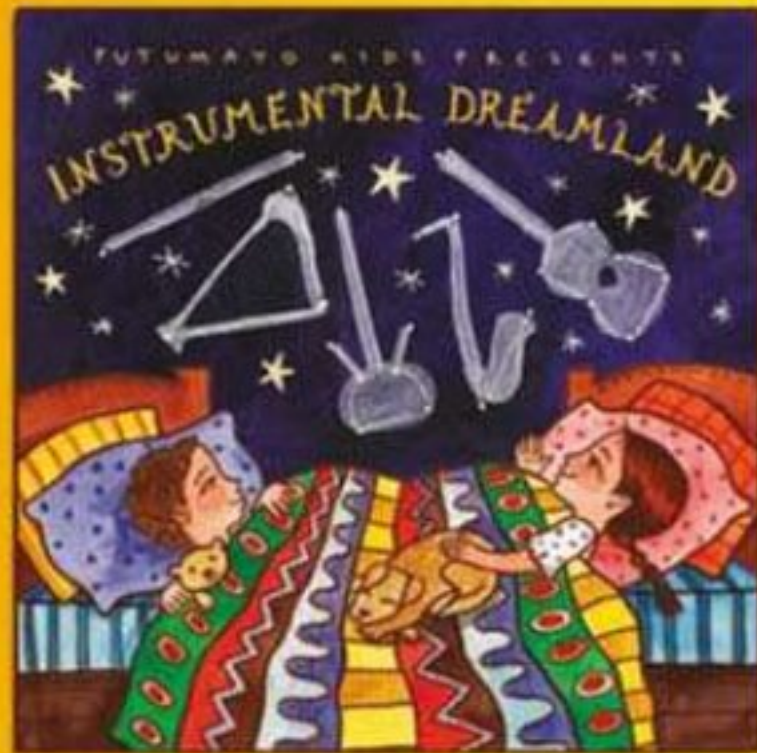
PAGE 4: ISTOCKPHOTO (HORSES); © DENTON RUMSEY/SHUTTERSTOCK (ANIMAL ARCHITECTS); MPH-EMERY / SUMNER JOINT VENTURE (DOG WHISPERER); JUHA METSO (COW SCULPTURE PHOTO)



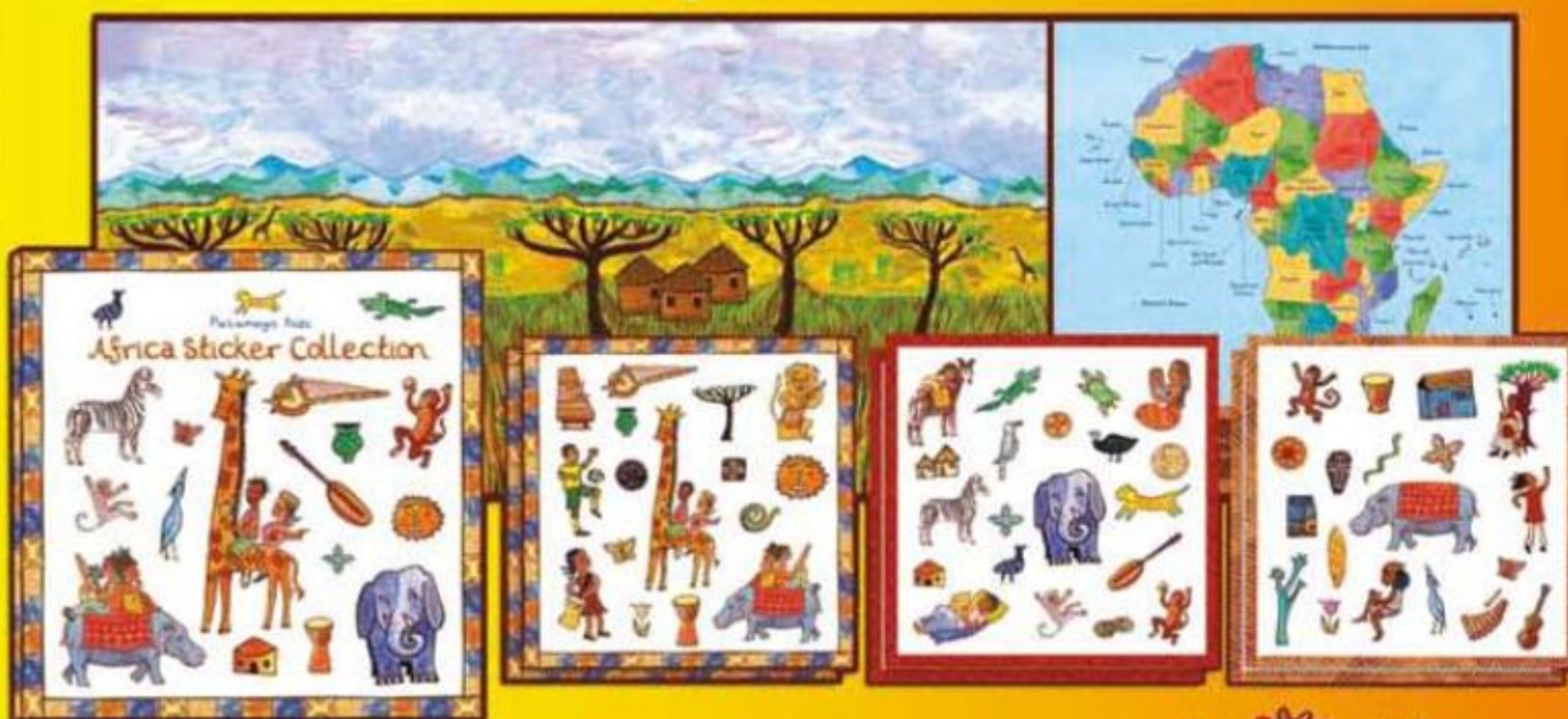
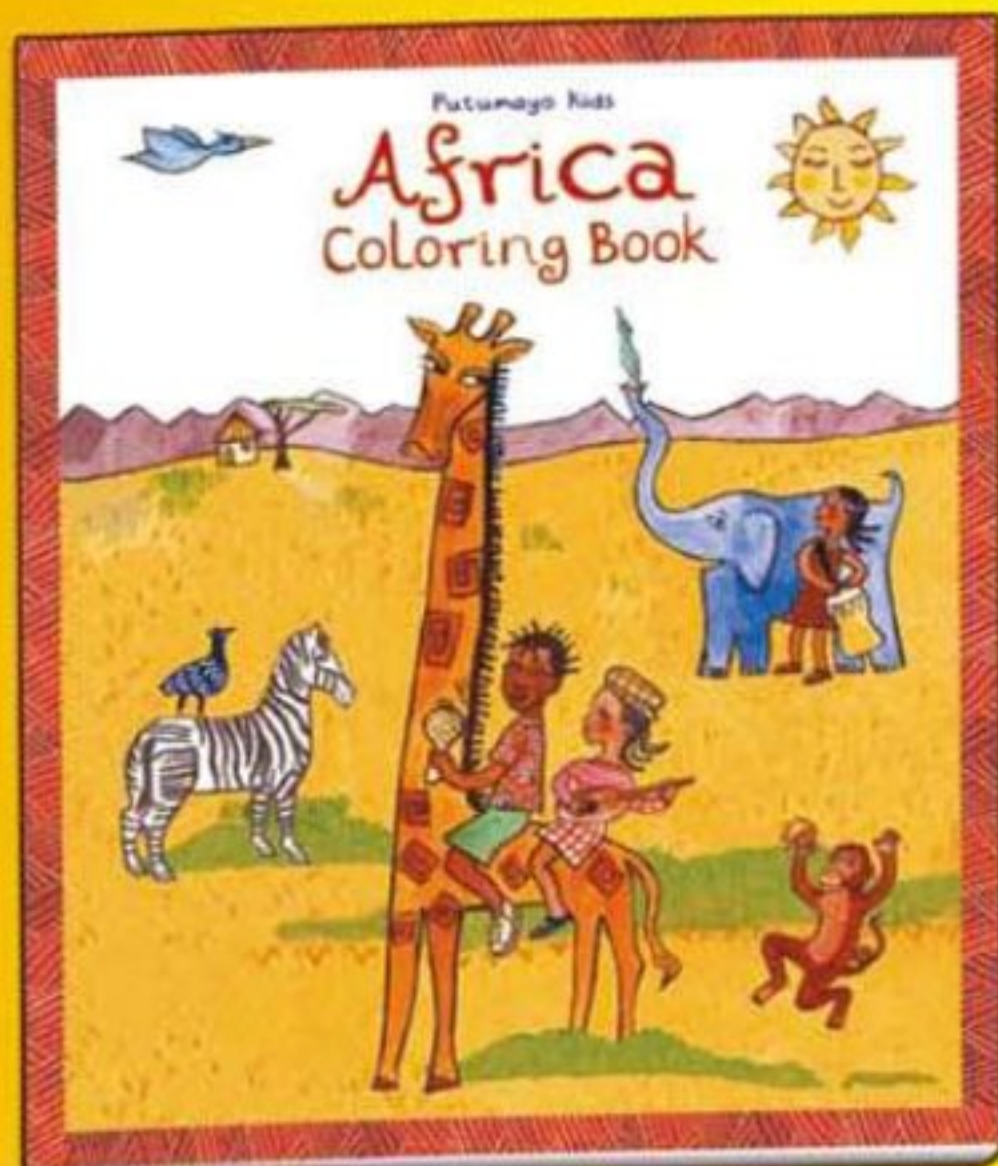
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PUTUMAYO KIDS
WORLD CULTURE COLLECTION !!!



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BY DELENÉ VAN DER LUGT

Piranha-proof fish

{inside} SCOOP

What do you get when you put a school of starving piranhas and a fish weighing 136 kilograms in the same tank? You'd think the Brazilian arapaima would end up as fish food, but you'd be wrong. So how does this massive fish live together with piranha when they're sharing the same shrunken Amazon basin lakes during the dry season? The secret lies in its scales, say researchers from the University of California San Diego. They overlap



A CLOSER LOOK



An Itsy Bitsy Nightmare

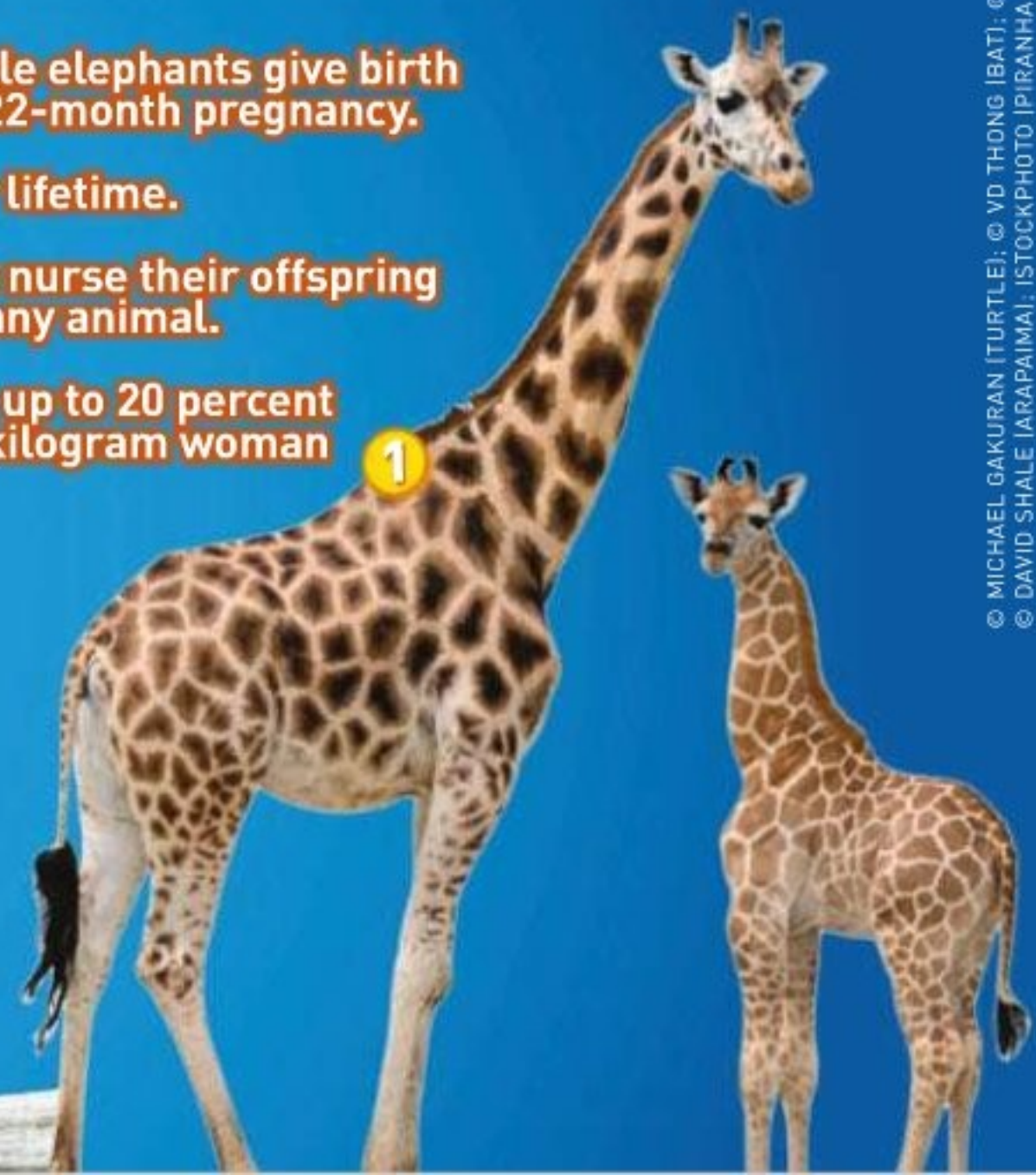
Arachnophobes living in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales must have thought they'd woken up in the middle of their worst nightmare! After a record rainfall in March, floodwaters across eastern Australia sent ground-dwelling spiders scurrying for higher ground as fast as their eight legs could carry them. They left behind enormous webs covering bushes, trees and fields. This behaviour is called ballooning – the spiders let out individual strings of silk that catch the wind, lifting them up into the air and away from the rising water.



5 Awesome animal Mums

The history of Mother's Day goes back to the times of ancient Greeks, who held festivities to honour Rhea, the mother of the gods. To celebrate Mother's Day on 13 May we take a look at some awesome and odd animal mum facts.

1. A mother giraffe often gives birth while standing, so the newborn's first experience in the real world is a drop of 1,8 metres to the ground.
2. Thank goodness elephant calves don't wear nappies! Female elephants give birth to the biggest babies on land – over 90 kilograms – after a 22-month pregnancy.
3. A female oyster may produce over 100 million young in her lifetime.
4. This devoted mum rarely puts her baby down. Orang-utans nurse their offspring until they're six or seven. That's the longest childhood of any animal.
5. Spare a thought for the female kiwi. Her eggs reach up to 20 percent of the mother's body weight. That would be like a 54 kilogram woman giving birth to a 10 kilogram baby. Ouch!



© MICHAEL GAKURAN (TURTLE); © VD THONG (IBATI); © GETTY / REUTERS (SPIDERS); INPPA (KIWI); © DAVID SHALE (ARAPAIMA); ISTOCKPHOTO (PIRANHA); ALL ILLUSTRATIONS, ALL OTHER ANIMAL MUMS!

like shingles and each has a thick mineralised layer on top of it. Underneath are much softer collagen fibres stacked like a pile of plywood. The external surface is twice as hard as the internal layer, giving the fish a layer of dense armour that stops a piranha with a tooth-cracking snap!

If engineers can copy nature's combination they could use it to improve things that need to be both tough and flexible like armour, fuel cells and aerospace designs. Meanwhile back in the Amazon the local people use the ridged scales, which can be nearly 10 centimetres long, as nail files.



Turtle Talk

Celebrate the heroes in half shell on 23 May – and we don't mean the little green ninjas. It's World Turtle Day and the aim is to increase people's knowledge of and respect for turtles and tortoises and encourage action to help them survive. At NG KIDS office we'll be dressing in green to show our support. Here are other ways you can help:

- Never buy a turtle or tortoise from a pet shop as it increases demand from the wild.
- Don't remove them from the wild unless they are sick or injured.
- If a tortoise is crossing a busy street, pick it up and send it in the same direction it was going – if you try to make it go back, it will turn again.
- Report cruelty or illegal sales of turtles and tortoises to your local animal control shelter.

CHINESE POND TURTLE



New Bat on the Block



If there were a competition for the world's ugliest critter, this bat may win by a nose! First seen in Vietnam's Chu Mom Ray National Park in 2008, the Griffin's leaf-nosed bat was recently confirmed as a new species. Scientists think the leaf-like features on the bat's face may help them with echolocation – sending out sound waves and listening for echoes bouncing off objects, including prey. Sounds batty to us!

Dates for your Diary



1 May

Worker's Day

In honour of all the hard-working people in South Africa, everyone can relax on this public holiday.



6 to 11 May



National Bird Week

The African fish-eagle was named Bird of the Year for 2012. Go to www.birdlife.org.za/events/national-bird-week to learn more about this majestic raptor. If you're in Gauteng don't forget the Sasol Birds and Birding Fair from 26 to 27 May at the Johannesburg Zoo. Both days promise to be great fun with tons of free activities, exhibitions, workshops and guided bird walks on offer. **WIN!** The first three readers to e-mail the name of the bird of the year and their name, age and contact details to fiona@ngkids.co.za will each win a pair of tickets to the fair.

13 May

SPCA/Hill's Township Dog Show

The dogs of Lidgetton will be having their day at Jabula Combined School near Howick, KwaZulu-Natal, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Spectators, volunteers and entrants are welcome! Go to www.hillspet.co.za/ Facebook or www.umngenispca.org.za for more information.



18 May

International Museum Day

The world is changing rapidly and museums also need to keep up to date with new technology. So this year's museum theme is "Museums in a changing world. New challenges, new inspirations." Local museums will be joining in the fun with special activities and exhibitions.



Amazing Animals

I'D STICK MY NECK OUT FOR THIS GUY ANYTIME!



BABY
OSTRICH
LOVES
TOY

Pembrokeshire, Wales

Birds aren't known for loving toys, but Madoc the baby ostrich can't get enough of his stuffed animal.

Madoc lives with his fluff-filled "friend" at the Folly Farm Adventure Park and Zoo. Caretakers gave the newborn the toy to keep him company after he was abandoned by his mum. "The stuffed animal is like a security blanket," zoo manager Tim Morpew says. "It makes Madoc feel safe."

The ostrich eats with the toy next to him and sleeps squatting at its fake feet. Sometimes Madoc gently nuzzles his bestie with his beak. If someone moves the toy, Madoc waddles over to join it.

"Baby birds learn what kind of creatures they are by watching family members," says Stephen Kress of the National Audubon Society. "Madoc's toy lookalike is showing him he's an ostrich." The little guy may outgrow the need for a stuffed buddy. But for now, these two birds of a different feather still flock together.



I COULD REALLY USE SOME HOT CHOCOLATE!

ELEPHANT WEARS RAINCOAT

Nairobi, Kenya

Wet weather doesn't get Shukuru the elephant down. That's because this young mammal has her very own raincoat!

Normally baby elephants rely on hovering family members to keep them warm and dry during bad weather. But Shukuru is an orphan. Her caretakers at the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust knew that without family she'd get soaked in the rain. So they made her a special outfit.

The bright orange jacket was created from the same fabric as a human's raincoat. On wet days Shukuru stands patiently as a keeper places it over her back and fastens it under her tummy. "She's used to wearing the coat and knows that it will make her feel cosy," says Angela Sheldrick, the trust's executive director. If only Shukuru had some extra large boots to complete the look.



CHIHUAHUA CHASES AWAY BURGLARS

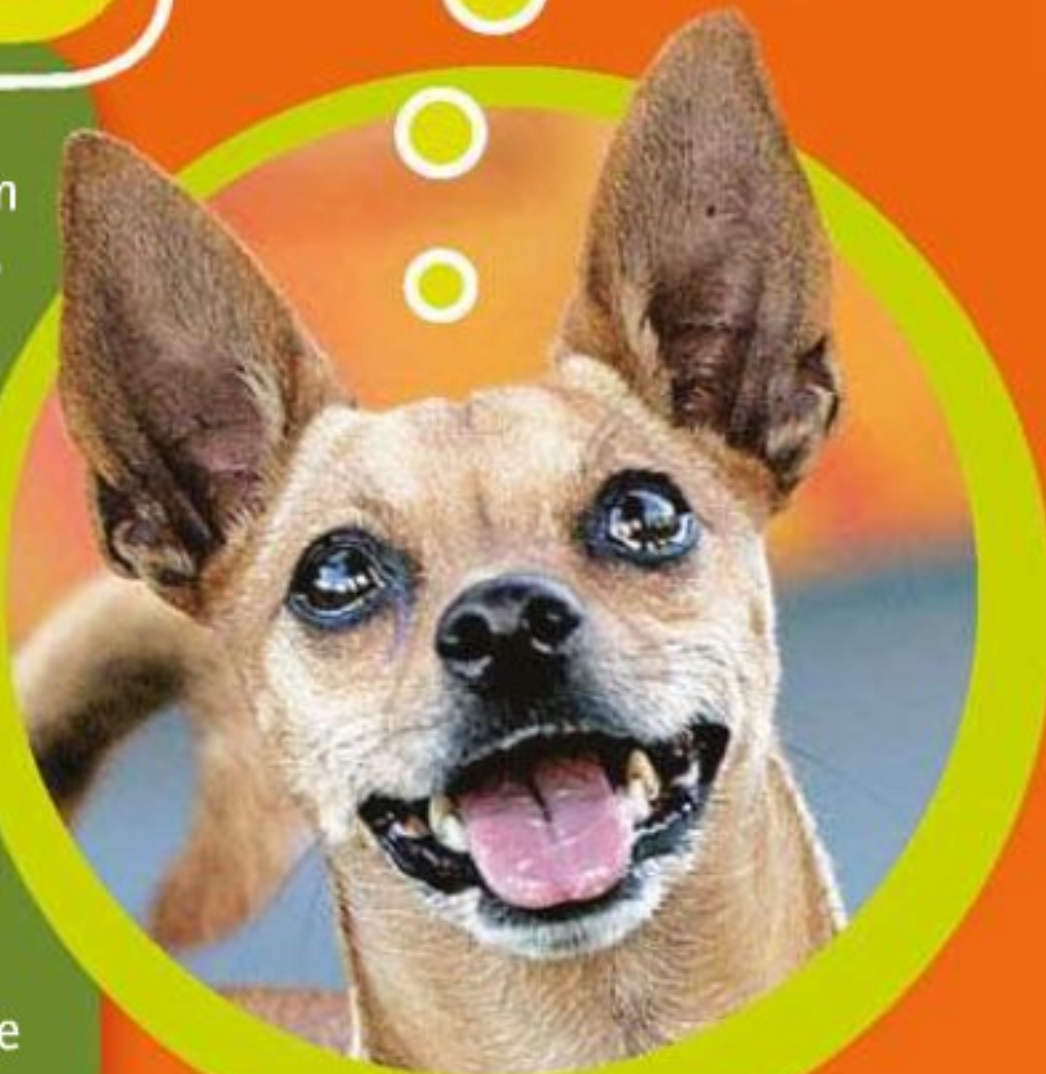
California, America

Paco the chihuahua was curled up for a snooze in his neighbour's shop when two masked men burst through the door. They charged toward the counter, shoved an empty bag at the cashier and ordered him to fill it with money.

Awoken by the noise, Paco leapt into action. The small pooch bounded toward the intruders, barking loudly and nipping at their ankles. The startled robbers ran off, but Paco wasn't done with his patrolling. The five-kilogram security guard followed the thieves outside and chased them down the street before returning to the shop.

What turned this normally calm and friendly pet into a feisty crime fighter? Veterinary behaviourist Terry Marie Curtis thinks Paco actually might have been scared when the robbers entered the shop. "Sometimes when animals are frightened, they act aggressively to make the scary thing go away," says Terry Marie.

Whatever Paco was feeling, everyone in the neighbourhood is impressed with his bravery. "He's a real superhero," shop owner Erik Knight says. "All he still needs is a little cape."



Bet you
didn't
know

BY ELIZABETH CARNEY

6 dolphin
facts to
flip over

1 Newborn dolphins have a tiny patch of hair on their chins.

2 Some wild dolphins play catch with coconuts.

3 Every dolphin has a signature whistle it uses to identify itself.

4 A pink bottlenose dolphin was discovered in a lake in America.

5 To stay alert for predators, only half a dolphin's brain goes to sleep.

6 Risso's dolphins can hold their breath for 30 minutes.

COOL inventions

BY CATHY LU

TOPSY-TURVY RIDE

WILD RIDE INSIDE



You'll roll on the ground laughing with the Buzzball. Take a seat, strap yourself in and press the two hand triggers to get rolling. Each trigger is connected to a separate motor that powers the two wheels under your chair. You and the seat remain mostly upright, but as the wheels start to spin, the Buzzball begins to roll. Press one of the triggers to steer. That prompts the wheel on one side to turn, causing the Buzzball to roll in that direction. Depending on how fast you're going, the ball simply turns, or it tumbles around multiple times. It's like being in a roller coaster, motion simulator and skateboard bowl all at once.



IT'S AMAZING WHAT INVENTORS GET UP TO! BUT MANY OF THESE COOL INVENTIONS ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN SOUTH AFRICA...YET!

COURTESY OF EVENT WORLD (BUZZBALL, BOTH); AQUAONE TECHNOLOGIES (FISH 'N FLUSH); COURTESY OF ISL TRADING LTD (MAGIC CUBE)

FISH (TOILET) TANK



The next time you go to the bathroom, don't forget the fish food. The Fish 'n Flush turns a regular toilet into an aquarium. Two see-through tanks are attached to the toilet. The inner tank is for flushing the toilet. Around that tank is an aquarium.

When you flush, the water level of the inner tank goes down, making it seem as if water is flowing from your aquarium. Don't worry - it's an illusion.

The fish tank's water level remains the same, so your fishies are fine.

VIRTUAL KEYBOARD

Tap out an e-mail right on your kitchen table or type a report on your bedroom floor. With the Magic Cube you can turn any flat, opaque surface into a keyboard. Connect the small, cube-shaped device to a smart phone, tablet or computer. The cube uses a laser beam to project a pattern of a keyboard on to the surface.

A sensor inside the cube tracks where your fingers are tapping, then translates the movements into letters and numbers. The cube even plays tapping sounds while you type, just in case you miss the clickety-clack of your old-fashioned keyboard.



TAP YOUR DESK!

ALL About MONEY!

BY KRISTIN BAIRD RATTINI



THE NAME OF THE PHILIPPINES' PRESIDENT **ARROYO** WAS MISPELLED AS **ARROVO** ON THE **HUNDRED-PESO** NOTE IN 2005.

SOME EARLY **CHINESE** COINS WERE SHAPED LIKE **KNIVES**.



A BRITISH COUNTERFEITING GANG PRINTED OVER **R500 MILLION** IN **FAKE MONEY** BEFORE THEIR ARREST IN 1998.



THE **ANIMAL** ON THE BACK OF THE **KRUGERRAND** COIN IS A PRANCING **SPRINGBOK**.

CURRENCY MADE FROM THE **RED FEATHERS** OF THE **SCARLET HONEYEATER BIRD** WAS USED IN THE SANTA CRUZ ISLANDS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN UNTIL THE 1980s.



C-3PO AND NINE OTHER **STAR WARS** CHARACTERS APPEAR ON **DOLLAR COINS**

FROM **NIUE**, AN ISLAND SOME 2 000 KILOMETRES OFF NEW ZEALAND.



MY ACCOUNT IS FROZEN, SO JUST PUT IT ON MY BILL.

THERE ARE **TWO** **ATMs** IN **ANTARCTICA**.



FOR A TIME IT WAS THE CUSTOM TO USE EGGS AS A FORM OF CURRENCY IN FRANCE.

THE MYTHICAL WINGED HORSE **PEGASUS** appeared on a coin from the ancient Greek city-state of **CORINTH**.



MONEY TIP!

IF YOU SKIPPED BUYING ONE CAN OF COOLDRINK EACH WEEK FOR A YEAR, YOU'D SAVE

R416.

EXTREME WEIRDNESS

BY SALLY KING AND MOLLY MARCOT

from **AROUND the WORLD**



weird-o-meter



FRIDGES STACK UP

WHAT Refrigerator sculpture

WHERE Santa Fe, America

DETAILS Talk about a cool attraction. More than a hundred refrigerators were used to build a copy of a famous monument in England called Stonehenge. Workers spent more than six years assembling the desert exhibition. Just don't expect to find a snack if you raid these fridges for food.

WHAT'S NEXT—THE PYRAMIDS OF FREEZER?

weird-o-meter



ARTWORK ATTACKS

WHAT 3-D art

WHERE Taipei, Taiwan

DETAILS Get too close to this painting and it might bite... Well, not really. The toothy artwork was part of a museum exhibition. The picture is actually flat, but because of the angle at which it was painted, it looks three-dimensional in a photo. So there's nothing to be scared of.

SAY "AHHHHH!"



TEEN GUARD



TEEN GUARD has been specially formulated to help you cope with stress and boost your energy levels while keeping your skin healthy and your body in balance. **TEEN GUARD GUYS** and **GIRLS** have been created with **Vitamin B complex** to suit the demands of growing girls and guys. **TEEN GUARD BRAIN FUEL** is a yummy tropical chew that gives you the **Omega 3** you need without fishy breath. Teen Guard is giving away **10 hampers** consisting of a gym kit bag, water bottle, towel and sunscreen, worth **R350 each**. SMS* "NGK TEEN" to 33970 to win!



Teen Guard
keeping up with your teens' demands

DOLPHIN BEACH HOTEL



Situated on the beach in **Cape Town's** Blouberg village and only 20 minutes from the **V&A Waterfront**, **Dolphin Beach Hotel** is the **perfect family getaway**, with **seafront cabanas** that can accommodate **families** large and small.

Enjoy direct access to the **beach**, beautiful gardens, a **children's park** and **swimming pool**—this is the life! Go to www.visitdolphinbeach.com or call **021-557-8140** for more information.



DINOWAURS

Since the **beginning of time** there has been only one law: **survival of the fittest!** **Dinosaurs** is an amazing, brand-new collectible set of **36 different amazing dinosaurs!** Collect them all, plan a strategy, organise your game cards and **go to war!** Every pack includes one dinosaur figurine, one transparent battle card, a fact card and an identification chart showing all the dinosaurs in this series!



*SMSs cost R1.50. Free SMSs don't apply. Teen Guard competition closes 29 May 2012.

For centuries humans and horses have fought together, helped and healed each other. Meet seven awesome horses who have made a name for themselves.

Siglavý

BLUE BLOOD

NAME: Siglavý Odaliska **BREED:** Lipizzaner **AGE:** 6

For a horse to be a true Lipizzaner its pedigree has to be traced back to one of the original six stallions – Pluto, Conversano, Maestoso, Favory, Neapolitano and Siglavý – who were born in Europe between 1765 and 1810. Four mares and two stallions were brought to South Africa in 1944 and they settled in Mooi River, KwaZulu-Natal. The descendants of the original horses live at the Lipizzaner Centre in Kyalami, Johannesburg.

There are 31 stallions at the centre who perform the famous Lipizzaner dances. One of them is Siglavý Odaliska, a descendant of Siglavý. “If horses were people, Odaliska would be the cheeky little boy at the back of the class causing all the trouble,” says his rider, Abby Long. “But when it comes to exams, he seems to pull out all the aces. He’s taught many student riders a thing

or two about how to stay on a horse. That happens when he decides to test out his acceleration, which is top class.”

The Lipizzaner dances we enjoy today are moves once used on the battlefield. Soldiers in the Middle Ages taught the horses movements to help them beat the enemy. One is the Pesade: the horse stands up high on his hind legs and his rider gets a better view of the battlefield. Another is the Capriole: the horse jumps straight up and kicks his hind legs backwards. This was used to attack foot soldiers.

These days, the stallions perform the movements for their beauty and grace, while the handler remains on the ground next to them. “Odaliska is really good at the Capriole”, says Abby, who believes the young stallion is destined for greatness.

BREED INFO BOX:

ORIGIN: Slovenia, Europe
HEIGHT: 14.2 and 15.2 hands
BEST FEATURE: Strong, arched neck

DID YOU KNOW?

Lipizzaner horses are born dark. They become lighter with each change of coat until they are silvery white.



SIGLAVÝ ODALISKA IS HORSE ROYALTY

BY JANI COETZEE AND FIONA THOMSON

OR HORSES!



MAGIC WORKING HER MAGIC

HELPFUL HORSEY

NAME: Magic **BREED:** Miniature horse **AGE:** 4

Magic the miniature horse has done wonderful work. She's a therapy horse with the charity Gentle Carousel in Florida, America. Magic visits sick children, pensioners in old age homes and others who need some cheering up. She has learnt to walk up stairs and not to be scared of cars and hospital equipment.

Horses are herd animals. They are very sensitive to the feelings of others in the herd. Magic has changed many lives in her "herd".

Kathleen Loper hadn't spoken in years. When she saw Magic, she suddenly said: "Isn't she beautiful!" The hospital staff were amazed but for Magic it was all in a day's work.

Horse-riding is used to heal people as well. It is called hippotherapy. "The soothing rhythm and warmth improves circulation, abnormal muscle tone, reflexes and even the mood of the patient," says Lisa Hare McCallum of the Equine Assisted Therapy Association of South Africa.

The organisation South African Riding for the Disabled has ponies and horses that are specially trained to work with people who have special needs. They have over 300 pupils around South Africa. "There are many benefits and wonderful outcomes when using a horse to help a child – many smile and talk for the first time when they are introduced to these wonderful creatures," says Lisa.

BREED INFO BOX:

ORIGIN: Europe in the early 1600s

SIZE: 60 centimetres

BEST FEATURE: Blue eyes

DID YOU KNOW?

Miniature horses don't get fleas, because fleas don't like their skin.



A LIPIZZANER PERFORMING THE PESADE.

ISTOCKPHOTO (BIG IMAGE); SUPPLIED BY LIPIZZANER SOUTH AFRICA (SIGILAVY ODALLISKA); GETTY IMAGES (LIPIZZANER); KELLEY MILLER / NGS STAFF (MAGIC)

HEROES WITH HOOVES

NAME: Marengo **BREED:** Arabian **AGE:** Died of old age at 38

Not all heroes are human. Animals can be incredibly brave during wartime, too. Napoleon Bonaparte was a French leader from 1804 to 1815. He led his cavalry on horseback during many military campaigns.

Other leaders preferred large thoroughbred horses, but Napoleon was very fond of his small Arabian stallion. In the book *Marengo, The Myth of Napoleon's Horse*, by Jill Hamilton, we read that Napoleon praised his horse for its excellent memory: "When I lost my way, I was accustomed to throw the reins on his neck, and he always discovered places where

I, with all my observation and boasted superior knowledge, could not."

After his army was beaten at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, Napoleon went into exile on the island St Helena off the coast of Africa. Marengo became a "celebrity horse". After capture he was paraded as a symbol of victory by the British. A painting of Marengo was a big hit at an exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts.

He ended his days on a farm where he was well cared for and even after he died he wasn't forgotten. His skeleton was put on display in the National Army Museum in London.

BREED INFO BOX:

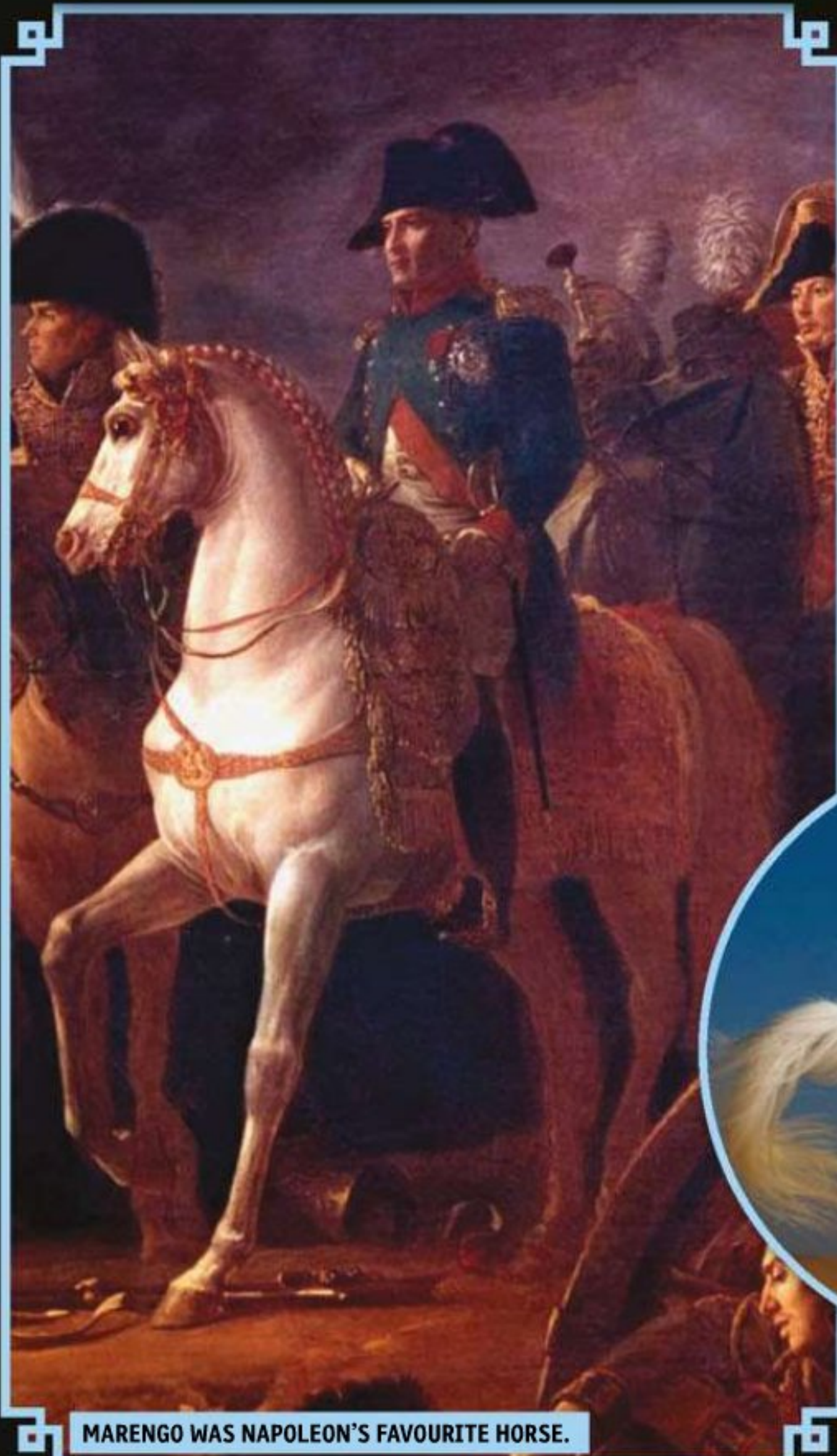
ORIGIN: One of the oldest breeds – from the Arabian Peninsula

HEIGHT: 14.1 to 15.1 hands

BEST FEATURE: Bubbly personality

DID YOU KNOW?

The Dickin medal was inspired by an animal's devotion to duty. It has been awarded 63 times since 1943. Dogs received most of the awards, but three horses got the medal during World War II and one cat was honoured as well.

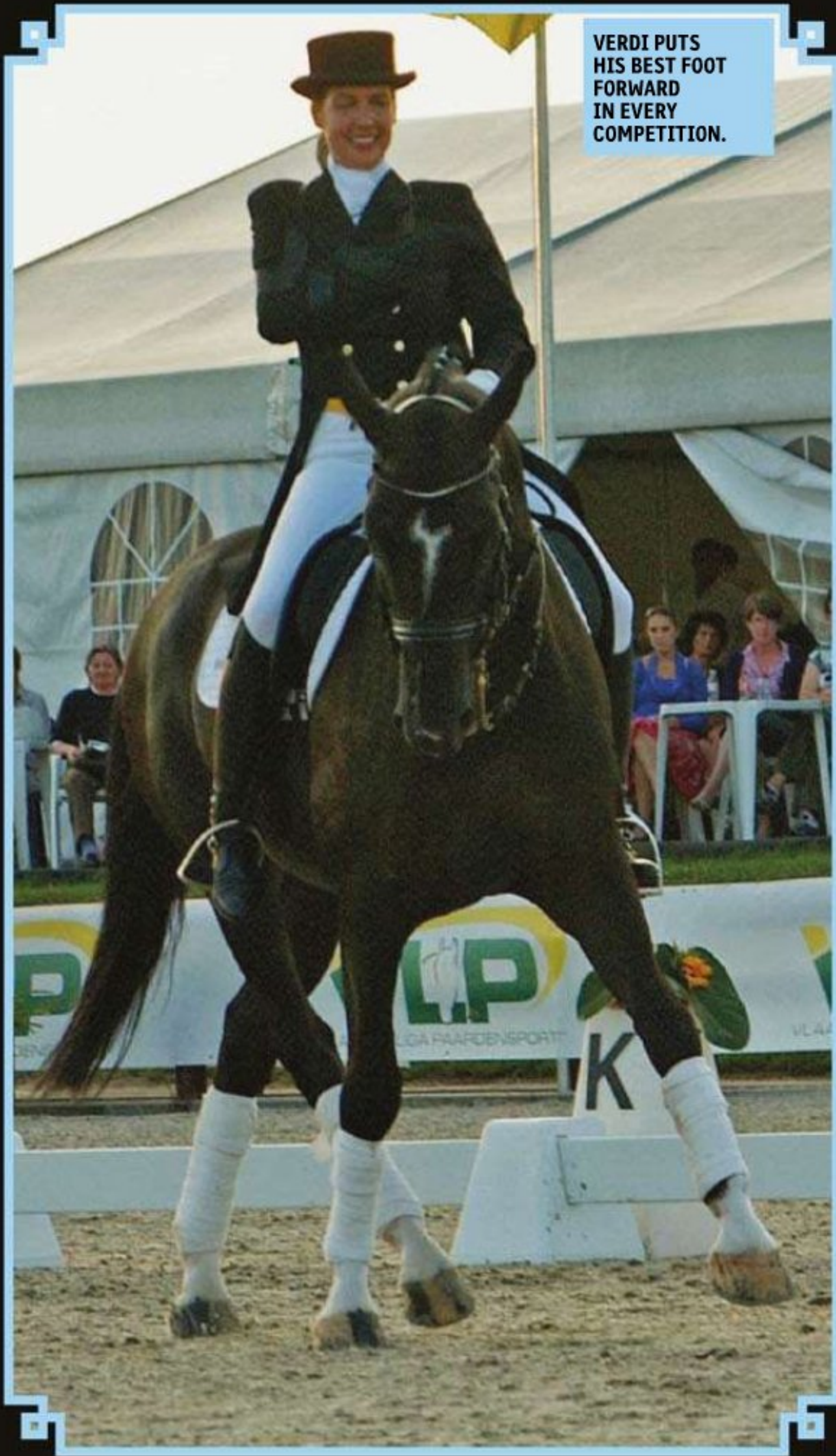


ISTOCKPHOTO (MAIN IMAGE); INPRA (MARENGO); GETTY IMAGES (ARABIAN); SUPPLIED BY PHILIPPA JOHNSON (VERDI)



THE ARABIAN HORSE ORIGINATED IN A DESERT CLIMATE.

MARENGO WAS NAPOLEON'S FAVOURITE HORSE.



VERDI PUTS HIS BEST FOOT FORWARD IN EVERY COMPETITION.

SPORTS STAR

NAME: Verdi **BREED:** Dutch warmblood **AGE:** 10

Some people say their horses are competitive and want to win races. Others say it's just training. Some breeds, like warmbloods and thoroughbreds, are better suited for sports, but in the end it's all about the horse's will to win.

Philippa Johnson is a para-equestrian rider born in Johannesburg. She became disabled after a car accident and was advised by her doctors to stop riding. "Horses enriched my childhood," she says. "They taught me discipline, respect and

responsibility. When my whole life was shattered, they gave me a reason to live."

She had to learn to ride all over again and with her horse Verdi is preparing for the 2012 Paralympics in London. Verdi will turn ten this year and is a black KWPN (Dutch warmblood) gelding. "He is an incredibly hard worker and all he wants is to get it right for me. We train six days per week and sometimes the seventh day is competition day," says Philippa. Here's hoping they bring home the gold!

BREED INFO BOX:

ORIGIN: The Netherlands
HEIGHT: Average of 15.2 hands
BEST FEATURE: Shiny coat

DID YOU KNOW?
A Dutch warmblood stallion named Brego played Aragorn's steed in all three *Lord of the Rings* movies.

SILVER SCREEN STEED

NAME: Silver **BREED:** Tennessee walking horse **AGE:** Retired in 1956

“Hi-yo, Silver! Away!” shouts a masked cowboy, known only as the Lone Ranger, as he gallops off on his white stallion. *The Lone Ranger* was a popular TV show that ran from 1949 to 1957. Together with his sidekick Tonto, the courageous cowboy fought injustice in the American Wild West. The story goes that the Lone Ranger and Tonto saved Silver from an enraged buffalo. The horse gave up his life in the wild to be the Lone Ranger’s faithful friend.

White Cloud, the Tennessee walking horse that played Silver, was extremely intelligent and well-trained. Although he

didn’t know many tricks he could rear up to an impressive height, for which he became famous.

Horse actors like Silver did much of their on-screen work with just a single stunt double but more recent films often use more than one for their lead horses. Fifteen different horses were used to portray the famous racehorse Seabiscuit and for the Steven Spielberg movie *War Horse* 14 animals were trained to play the hero, Joey, at various ages and sizes, although only ten were used in the final film.

BREED INFO BOX:

ORIGIN: The American South

HEIGHT: 17 hands

BEST FEATURE: Laid-back personality

DID YOU KNOW?

The legend of Silver lives on in the new film *The Lone Ranger*, due for release in May 2013 and starring Johnny Depp. Five horses will play Silver in this movie.



THE LONE RANGER AND HIS TRUSTY STEED SILVER.



INPRA (LONE RANGER); GETTY IMAGES (PERCHERON); REGINE LORD (SMOKEY AND LIGHT)



A PERCHERON CAN WEIGH UP TO 1 000 KILOGRAMS.

SMOKEY AND LIGHT ARE TWO VETERAN CAPE TOWN TOUR GUIDES.



HARD WORKERS

NAMES: Smokey and Light **BREED:** Percheron **AGE:** Smokey 14 and Light, 18

Because of their strength and nature the Percheron breed was used like animal tractors. A Percheron horse can weigh over 1 000 kilograms, which is about the same as a small family car! By the end of the 19th century almost all carriages in Paris were pulled by Percherons. A hundred years ago farmers imported Percherons to South Africa as plough horses for vineyards and wheat fields.

Percherons are still popular workhorses, even though tractors and other machinery

took over most of their toughest jobs.

Smokey and Light are two of Cape Town's heftiest tour guides. They work side by side pulling a copy of a 100-year-old 16-seater wagon. In the days before cars and buses these carriages were a common sight on South Africa's roads. Now the two perky Percherons are happy to show off the Mother City to tourists who want a unique tour or would like to appear in movie shoots.

BREED INFO BOX:

ORIGIN: The Perche valley in northern France

HEIGHT: Between 15.1 and 18.1 hands

BEST FEATURE: Strong, wide shoulders

DID YOU KNOW?

In March a "life-size" painting of a Percheron horse was auctioned and the money raised was donated to the Cart Horse Protection Association, who looks after these animals around Cape Town.

RABBIT



Tiny newborn bunnies are saved from a raging wildfire.

BY KITSON JAZYNKA

Hot wind blows through the foothills of the Palo Pinto Mountains in northern Texas, America, fuelling a wildfire that consumes homes, farms and woodlands around Possum Kingdom Lake. At the edge of a meadow the fire gets closer and closer to a nest of newborn cottontail bunnies. The bushes that shelter them begin to smoulder. Too young to flee, the helpless kits wait for their mother to return. Burning ash drifts into their nest and singes their delicate ears.

A nearby firefighter hears a squeak. He peers into the bushes and finds the quivering nest of tiny bunnies, each one about the size of a small egg and too young to see or hear. There is no sign of the mother rabbit. The fire roars close to the place where the veld meets the forest. The firefighter scoops up the babies and gently places them into his pocket.

Hours later the six bunnies travel in a shoe box to Wild Rescue in Denton, Texas, where wildlife rehabilitation expert Diana Leggett takes them in. They smell like a veld fire. The edges of their ears are ragged from the burns and they're

suffering from smoke inhalation. Diana guesses they're about seven days old. She transfers the babies into a warm, humid incubator that will soothe their burned skin.

"They could breathe but that was about it," says Diana, who has rehabilitated thousands of cottontails. "They moved slowly, which showed they were in pain."

She hopes they have the strength to survive. The kit with the worst burns does not.

INTENSIVE CARE

Diana treats the five remaining babies with fluids for dehydration and ointment and antibiotics for the burns. The kits huddle together, scared and tense, their bodies rigid. She gives them fluids and liquid nutrition through a small tube. As the hours go by during the first two days, they begin to relax and explore their environment.

After 48 hours the babies have stabilised. Diana washes the caked ash and burnt embers from their bodies. She places fresh grass, dandelions and rose petals in the incubator to provide them with familiar scents. On the fourth day she makes a nest with a towel, dried leaves, and more fresh grass. When the babies start to chew the feeding tube, she switches to a rubber nipple attached to a feeding syringe. They guzzle formula made from powdered goat's milk that closely matches their mother's milk. For the first time the babies appear bright and alert. Diana, who has barely left the rehab room since the bunnies arrived, begins to think they might be okay.

TIME TO PLAY

Three weeks later the rehab room turns from an intensive care unit into a bunny romper room. The cottontails get the burns on their ears checked daily, but otherwise they live wild in the room. Each one is now the size of a tennis ball and has lots of sandy-coloured fur. They run, jump, play leapfrog and

practise their quick zigzag escapes, which will help them survive in the wild. After playtime they retreat to their hideouts to nap. No longer needing milk, they eat a natural diet of grass, apples and hay.

"A light bulb went off in their brains around this time and they would go wild," Diana says. The less she handles them and the sooner she releases them, the better. "As a wildlife rehabilitator, I do my best to imitate what their mum would have done."

When the kits reach seven weeks old and all their wounds have healed, Diana waits for a day with mild weather, loads them into a crate and drives to a remote, wooded area. In a patch of brambles near a stream at the edge of a forest, she opens the carrier. The healthy wild cottontails hesitate, then scamper into the shade of the late afternoon.

"They disappeared quickly," she says. "All I saw was some grass shaking. They are true little survivors."



NEWBORN



GROWING UP

LINDSAY HOOKERS / WILDRESCUE, INC. (BIG PICTURE);
DIANA LEGGETT / WILDRESCUE, INC. (SMALL PICTURES)

Rescue



Meet our Win

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
KIDS

YOUNG ARTISTS

COMPETITION!
BROUGHT TO YOU BY BOSTIK

CATEGORY:
**DRAWING
AND PAINTING**

Nicholas Wissema, 12, Cape Town
Title: Monkey in the Moonlight



Nicholas Wissema

Hayley Cameron Fawset, 11, Magaliesburg
Title: Zany Me



Sarah van Wyngaarden,
8, Cape Town
Title: Tiger



Sarah van Wyngaarden 20

Young Artists!

Helen Miligan, 11,
Cape Town
Title: Black Spitting Cobra



THE WAITING IS OVER! WE ARE VERY PROUD TO PRESENT THE WINNERS IN THE THREE CATEGORIES OF THE YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION. "WE REALLY ENJOYED THE JUDGING THIS YEAR," SAYS HEIDI MASTERS OF BOSTIK. "IT WASN'T EASY, BUT BEING IN A ROOM SURROUNDED BY SO MUCH CREATIVITY WAS VERY INSPIRING. WE'RE PROUD TO SHOWCASE OUR NEWEST BUDDING ARTISTS."

Peta Morris, 13, Kirkwood
Title: Stop Rhino Poaching



CATEGORY:

3-D

SCULPTURE

Alex Theo Blatcher, 11,
Cape Town
Title: Chameleon



More entries can be viewed in the Bostik gallery at www.bostik.co.za

Bostik

Don't just stick it. Bostik it.



JAMESXX (PHOTOGRAPHY)

CATEGORY: COLLAGE AND MIXED MEDIA

Tara Schwulst, 12, East London
Title: Midnight Owl



Rizia Verwey, 12, Rondebosch
Title: Cityscape



Sadè Snyman, 7,
Franschhoek
Title: Take care of your family

THE WINNING SCHOOL

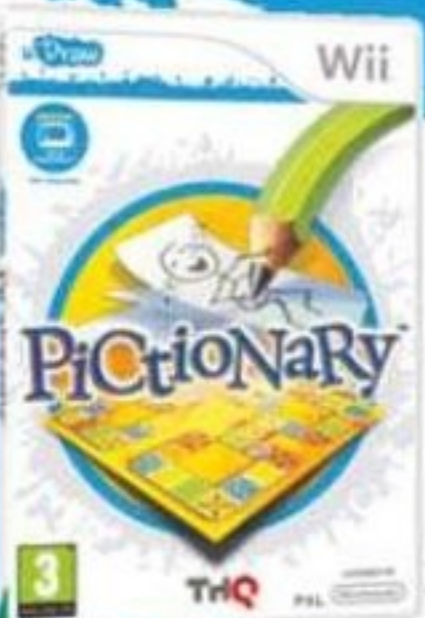
Well done to King David Primary in Johannesburg who sent in the most entries. The school wins the same Wii prize package as well as art supplies worth R5 000 from Bostik.

PRIZES!

Each of the nine winners will receive an art bag filled with art supplies from Bostik. They will also receive an awesome Wii console, a uDraw GameTablet, uDraw Studio game software and a copy of Pictionary, worth R2 600 courtesy of Ster Kinekor Entertainment. Plus a year's subscription to NG KIDS. Visit www.worldofudraw.com for more information.

Prizes sponsored by Bostik and uDraw.

Well done to everybody who entered the competition and a big thank you to parents and teachers for taking the trouble to get the artwork to us.



GRAND PRIZE



ART HAMPER

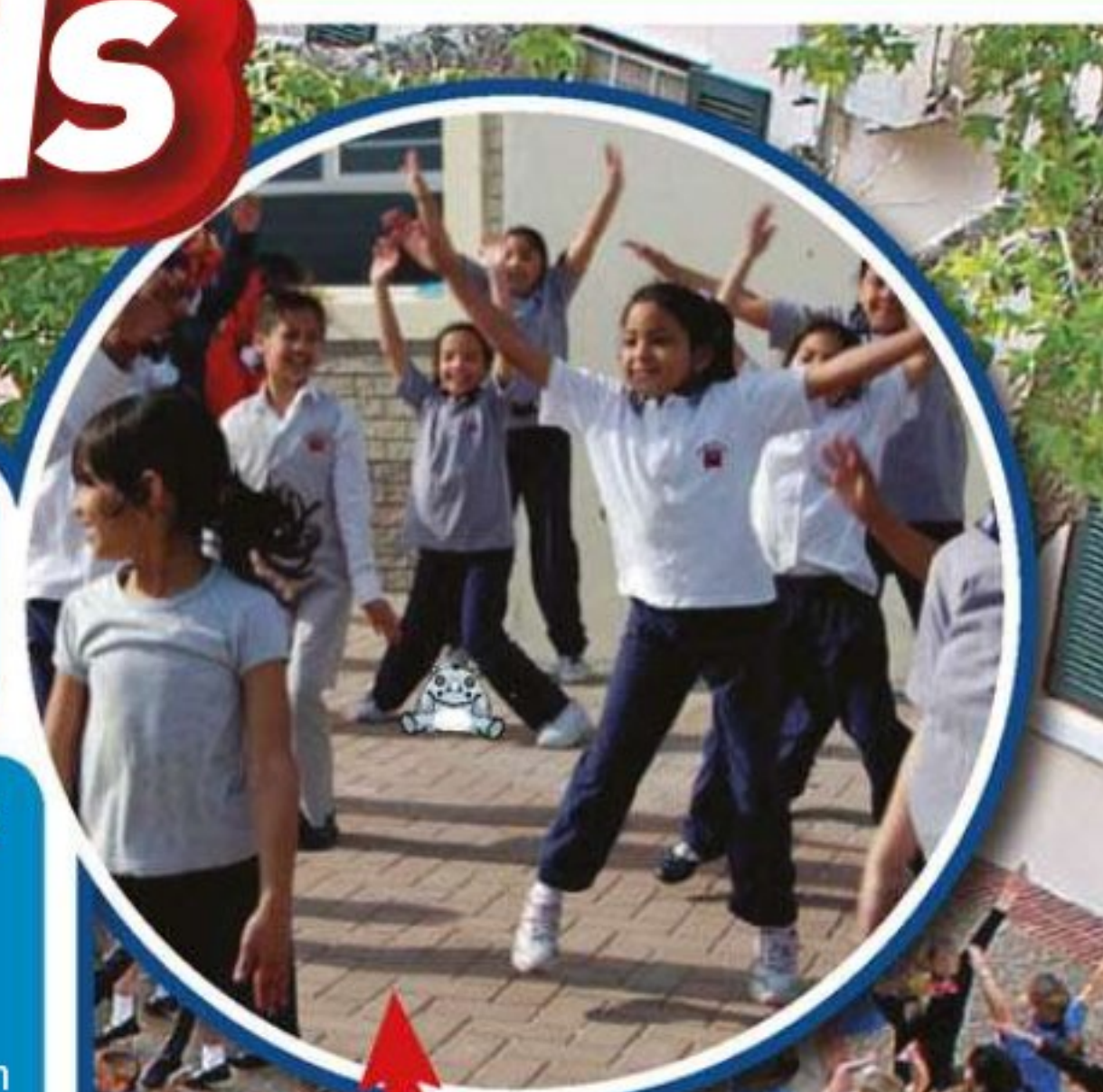
ASTONISHING
STORIES FROM
THE FILES OF

Guinness World Records

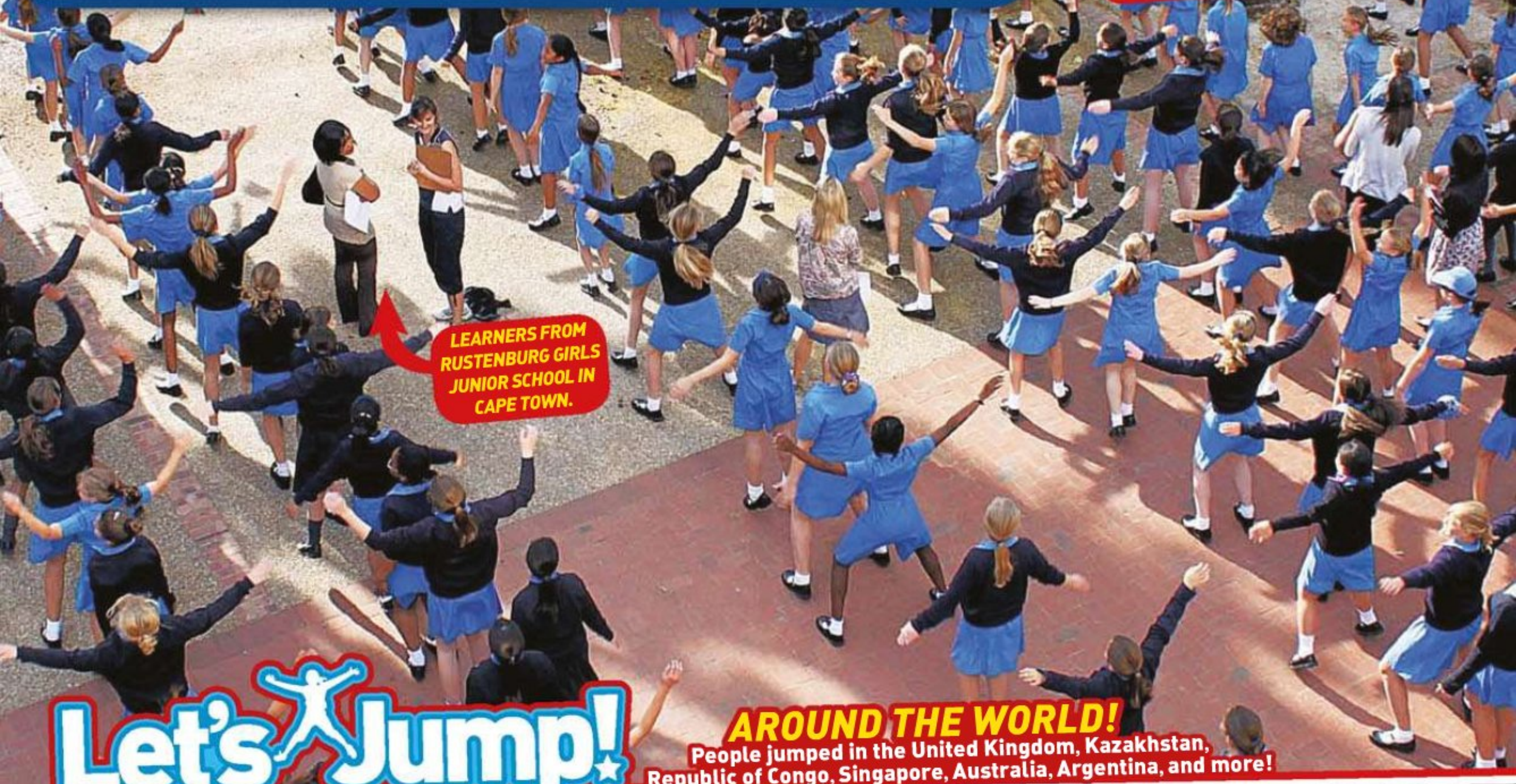
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS BREAKS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD!

Well done, if you participated in NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS' latest Guinness World Records attempt. We have set the Guinness World Record for the most people doing jumping jacks in a 24-hour time period. Between 11 October 2011 and 12 October 2011, 300 265 people in 1 050 locations did one minute of jumping jacks to be counted for the record. How much do you rock? The previous record was only 20 425!

The NG KIDS team linked up with Hyde Park Primary, in Mitchell's Plain, Cape Town to help break the record. After a countdown 140 excited kids and our editor, Fiona Thomson, started jumping. A huge cheer went up when they finished. Michelle Obama, wife of American president Barack Obama, also took part with 464 kids in one minute of jumping jacks at the White House. "The whole world is going to see how much fun we can have not just breaking a world record but also doing some exercise," said Michelle. The record attempt was in support of Mrs Obama's Let's Move! initiative, which is all about moving, staying active and eating healthily.



LEARNERS
FROM HYDE
PARK PRIMARY.



LEARNERS FROM
RUSTENBURG GIRLS
JUNIOR SCHOOL IN
CAPE TOWN.

Let's Jump!

AROUND THE WORLD!
People jumped in the United Kingdom, Kazakhstan, Republic of Congo, Singapore, Australia, Argentina, and more!



AMERICA



AMERICA



HAWAII



FRANCE

Check out the NG KIDS SA jump at <http://www.youtube.com/user/NatGeoKidsSAtv>

The logo features a yellow, stylized rectangular frame on the left. To its right, the words "NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC" are written in a white, sans-serif font. Below this, the word "KIDS" is written in a large, bold, orange font with a black outline and a slight 3D effect.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
KIDS





Lion

Win a Mother's

Spoil your mum on Mother's Day by entering this month's competition to win a getaway for a family of four to a luxury hotel.

family ge

worth R39 0

FOUR LUCKY NG KIDS READERS WILL WIN:
Two nights accommodation for two adults and two children at one of the featured Three Cities resorts PLUS a spa treatment for your mum.

1 Le Franschhoek Hotel & Spa is a five-star hotel located in the heart of the Cape Winelands. Your mum can enjoy the stunning views of mountains, streams and vineyards from her balcony, while you plan fun activities for your family.

FUN THINGS FOR YOU TO DO

Tennis, swimming, horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, fly-fishing and chocolate and cheese tasting.

www.lefranschhoek.co.za

REMEMBER!
Mother's Day is on 13 May

KwaZulu-Natal



Western Cape

LE FRANSCHHOEK HOTEL & SPA



THE SQUARE BOUTIQUE HOTEL & SPA

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

*1. SMSs cost R1, 50 and free minutes do not apply. 2. You may enter as many times as you like. 3. Entrants must be 14 years old or younger. 4. The competition opens on 25 April 2012 and closes on 29 May 2012. 5. The winner will be determined by a random number generator and will be notified telephonically. No correspondence will be entered into. 6. If the winner cannot be contacted for a period of two weeks after the closing date, an alternative winner will be drawn. 7. The prize is for two adults and two children up to the age of 15, is valid for six months and must be taken by 31 December 2012. 8. This prize excludes transport or transfers and all extras not specified are for the individual account. 9. The prize is non-transferable, non-redeemable for cash, non-upgradeable and cannot be extended. 10. The prize is subject to availability and must be made through the Three Cities Central Reservations office. 11. Prize packages: The Square Boutique Hotel and Spa: two nights bed and breakfast for two adults and two children; dinner for four on one night (excluding beverages); full back massage, manicure and pedicure for mum. Le Franschhoek Hotel & Spa: two nights bed and breakfast for two adults and two children; two full body massages for mum. Greenway Woods Resort: two nights bed and breakfast for two adults and two children; dinner for four on both nights (excluding beverages); one full-body hot stone massage for mum. Alpine Heath Resort: two nights bed and breakfast for two adults and two children; a two-hour outback horse ride for four; one full-body hot stone massage for mum. 12. This prize may not be redeemed during peak seasons or over public holidays. 13. Staff of Media24 (Ltd) and their immediate family, sponsors and their advertising agencies may not enter. 14. The entrant accepts that entry to the competition does not constitute a contract of any form of legal commitment between the entrant and NG KIDS. 15. NG KIDS shall not assume liability for any ambiguity, error, oversight or omission whether negligent or otherwise which may be committed by an employee of NG KIDS, their agents or associates in respect of this competition. 16. Participants and winners of this competition indemnify and hold National Geographic KIDS, National Geographic Society, Media24 (Ltd) and the sponsor harmless against any liability, claim, damage or loss that may result from participating or winning this prize.

Weekend getaway 1000



4 Mpumalanga

COMPETITION



GREENWAY WOODS RESORT

4 Greenway Woods Resort is a great place for a family weekend break. It's just 30 kilometres from the Kruger National Park. Your mum will love the African-styled restaurant, Injabula, with its traditional artwork and vibrant atmosphere.

FUN THINGS FOR YOU TO DO
Visit the Kruger National Park, Blyde River Canyon, Pilgrim's Rest and Sudwala Caves.
www.greenway.co.za

3 KwaZulu-Natal

FUN THINGS FOR YOU TO DO
Horseback riding, quad biking, paintball and canopy tours.
www.alpineheath.co.za



ALPINE HEATH RESORT

3 Alpine Heath Resort is nestled in the picturesque northern Drakensberg Mountains. It's close to many natural wonders and World Heritage Sites, making it the ideal base camp for the adventurous family. You could visit the Royal Natal National Park, Spioenkop Battlefield, Tugela Falls and the Falcon Ridge Bird of Prey Centre.

2 The Square Boutique Hotel & Spa is situated in Umhlanga Ridge, just 15 minutes from Durban's King Shaka Airport. The cool thing about this hotel is that there's something different for the whole family to do – sophisticated shopping and beach fun are a stone's throw away.

FUN THINGS FOR YOU TO DO
Go to the beach, visit uShaka Marine World, explore the Hawaan Forest.
www.thesquare.co.za

**TO WIN, ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:
WHAT DATE IS MOTHER'S DAY THIS YEAR?
SMS* "NGK MOTHER", your name, age,
preferred region and your answer to the
question to 33970 OR send your entries to
competition@ngkids.co.za and include "NGK
MOTHER" and preferred region in the subject
heading. We need your name, age, city,
contact number and answer. Competition
closes on 29 May 2012.**



THE GREEN LEAVES THIS WEAVERBIRD USED TO BUILD ITS NEST WILL TURN BROWN.

They pluck, stack, stitch, tunnel, dig and chew. Discover how different animals build.

ANIMAL ARCHITECTS

BY BRENNAL MALONEY



A MALE BOWERBIRD STEALS A BLUE BLOCK TO DECORATE HIS NEST.



A FEMALE BOWERBIRD INSPECTS A NEST.



THE PATH TO THIS NEST IS PAVED WITH PILES OF BERRIES, NUTS AND FLOWERS.

More flower petals. The nest needs more flower petals. It already has two piles of pink petals just outside the opening but the bowerbird wants to collect more. He's building his bower, or nest, but it really is a work of art.

One by one, he picked up hundreds of sticks and twigs. He planted them to make two walls and even made a carpet for the nest with bright green moss.

Now he flies to a nearby flower to pick more petals and adds them to his piles. Between these piles is a stack of white shells. Leading to the opening of the nest is a path made of black pebbles. The best part is near the door. A row of dead beetles sparkles in the sun.

The bowerbird stands back up and tilts his head. Everything looks ready—and now he waits. All the other male bowerbirds spent months decorating their nests. Now they are all waiting for female bowerbirds to look at their nests.

ANIMAL BUILDERS

When a female flies by, the bowerbird points his beak skyward and calls out to her. His call echoes through the forest. He struts, bobs and sings in front of his nest to get her attention.

The female flies low to look at his nest. The beetles catch her eye as she flies past the nest but she wants to check out other nests. Maybe she'll be back.

Some animals find or borrow their homes. Other animals, like the bowerbird, build. Knowing how to build a nest is an instinct, or natural skill, the males are born with. Knowing how to build a really good nest takes practise.

Some animals are skilled architects. They build nests, dens, burrows, tunnels and traps. To build, they need a plan and the right materials and they must put everything together.

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

Different kinds of animals build for different reasons. Animals make homes for themselves and their young. They create shelters to shield themselves from bad weather or danger. Some work together to build communities.

How do animals know what to build and how to build it? Some are guided by instinct while others learnt from their parents or from other animals. Most get better with practice.

Let's meet a few of these amazing builders.



MEERKATS MAKE THEIR HOMES UNDERGROUND.

BIRD BUILDERS

Some of nature's best builders are birds. Most birds build nests so they can have a safe place to lay their eggs and raise their young. They often look for places to build where predators cannot reach them.

It's hard work. Birds need a lot of supplies to create a nest that won't fall apart or get knocked over.

Most birds find their building supplies in their environment – twigs, grass or leaves can make a good base for a nest. They use mud, spit or spider webs to glue their nests together.

Sometimes birds add man-made items that they find to their nests. That can make for an odd-looking nest. In one osprey nest a researcher found three shirts, a bath towel, an arrow and a garden rake!

Building a nest takes time and patience. A bird can only carry so much in its beak, so it travels back and forth many times to add new items to the nest.

WOVEN WONDER

To build a strong nest, a bird needs the right materials. The weaverbird builds with leaves. The leaves must be fresh and green so they'll bend easily. Dry leaves are too stiff and brittle and break too easily.

The weaverbird tears green leaves into strips and then ties a few of them around a twig growing from a tree. It clamps its foot down around this knot, takes the loose ends in its beak and begins to weave the leaves together.

The soft strips easily fold over one another. The weaverbird ties a knot in each strip to keep it from falling off. When the bird runs out of strips, it makes new ones and adds them to the nest.

Slowly the bird forms a ring that will become the entrance to its nest. Then it weaves walls, a floor and a ceiling.

The bird knows what shape to make the nest and how strong it has to be. If it is too weak, the nest will fall apart.

STITCHING A NEST

The weaverbird isn't the only bird to carefully build a nest. The tailorbird sews its nest, using its beak like a sewing needle.

The bird looks for two large leaves growing close together high in a tree. It uses its beak to punch holes along the edge of each leaf.

Next it looks for "thread" to sew the leaves together. It can use plant fibres or even spider webs. The tailorbird pushes the thread through the holes in the leaves and then pulls the thread to sew them together. When it's done, it lines the inside with grass. Now the bird settles into its new, cosy nest.

Eggs rest safely on the nest's floor. When the eggs hatch, the baby birds grow quickly while their parents bring them food. Once the birds are strong enough to fly, they leave the nest. These young birds will build their own nests later.

MOBILE HOME

Other animals take their homes with them when they are on the move. That's what the bagworm does. A bagworm is a kind of caterpillar that turns into a moth.

Shortly after a bagworm hatches from an egg, it starts on its home. The caterpillar gathers thorns and twigs, and cuts them into small pieces. Using silk to tie the sticks together, the bagworm forms a tube around its body so only its head sticks out.

During the next few months the bagworm carries this case with it everywhere. It camouflages the worm and protects it from predators.

Soon it's time for the bagworm to turn into a moth. Using more silk, it ties the case to a tree limb. It tucks its head into the case and seals the top. Now it looks just like a stick. Predators ignore it for weeks. Then a newly formed moth breaks free from the case and flies away.

WEAVER ANTS WORK AS A TEAM TO BUILD THEIR NEST.



THIS BEAVER USES ITS SHARP TEETH TO CUT DOWN AN OAK TREE.



THE BAGWORM CATERPILLAR BUILDS A CASE TO HIDE FROM PREDATORS.



THIS PARROTFISH MAKES A BUBBLE TO HIDE ITS SMELL FROM PREDATORS.

DIGGING DEEP

Some of nature's most amazing architects build their homes underfoot. They burrow into the ground.

Meerkats often move into burrows made by squirrels. Once inside, the meerkats make improvements.

Meerkats have sharp claws, but they must be careful when digging. If they dig into sandy soil, for example, their tunnel could cave in.

To make sure their tunnels last, meerkats dig close to the surface where plant roots bind the soil. Meerkats line their tunnels with mud, leaves or fur. The extra lining makes the tunnels more stable and comfortable.

BUSY BUILDERS

Perhaps there is no better builder in the animal kingdom than the beaver. Strong teeth and powerful jaws help a beaver strip bark off trees. The beaver then nibbles at the trunk and the tree topples over.

Next, the beaver cuts the tree into smaller pieces. As it works, it is planning what and how it will build. A beaver often builds a dam wall across a stream. The beaver piles up sticks, rocks and mud to make the wall. The trapped water becomes a deep pond.

In the pond, the beaver pushes and pats sticks and mud together. It makes a domed home called a lodge. The entrance and exits to the lodge are underwater. This keeps beavers safe from most predators.

Beavers sometimes dig canals to help them move heavy pieces of wood. Canals are deep ditches filled with water. Beavers float logs and tree branches down the canal to where they are building.

A pair of beavers can build a dam and lodge in a few weeks and then spend years making improvements.

BETTER BUILDERS

Animals build many kinds of structures. Bowers, nests, burrows and lodges are just a few of the amazing homes animals can make.

They make their homes with the things they find around them in order to survive. That's why humans sometimes study these animal architects to become better builders themselves.

IN THE BUBBLE

Bagworms aren't the only animals that make a special case to keep themselves safe from predators. The parrotfish makes a kind of a cocoon just before it sleeps.

When it's time to sleep at night, this colourful fish hides in a coral reef. It squirts out a sticky slime from a special gland under its gills. This slime forms a bubble that grows and grows. In less than an hour, the bubble is big enough for the fish to fit inside it.

This bubble masks, or hides, the parrotfish's smell. That protects it from nighttime predators such as moray eels. On the hunt for food, these predators swim by the bubble because they can't smell the sleeping parrotfish inside. In the morning, the fish pops the bubble. It swims off looking for some of its favourite food.

WORKING AS A TEAM

Not all animals build alone. Weaver ants build a group of nests for all the ants in the colony. The ants use their instincts and also learn what to do from one another. No ant is too small to help. Worker ants search for leaves that are soft and easy to bend. Several ants line up while each one holds one edge of a leaf in its jaws and the opposite edge in its back feet.

The workers form chains with their bodies. Holding onto each other's waists, they pull the edges of the leaf together.

Another group of ants then bring larvae from the old nest. These workers carry the larvae to the leaves.

Each worker holds a single larva in its jaws. Then it uses its antennae to gently tap the larva on the head. This makes the larva ooze a thin strand of silk.

The workers use the silk to glue the leaves together. Building a nest in the trees can take more than a week. The nest can be as big as a basketball.



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The DOOG Whis

A trainer's adventures in canine communication

BY RUTH A. MUSGRAVE

When Cesar Millan walked into the home of Kisses the Maltese, the world turned pink. Pink floors. Pink walls. Pink ceilings. Even her owner, Kitten, was pink from head to toe. And the dog? Rather than snowy white, Kisses was candyfloss pink.

Kisses is one of the dogs Cesar has met on his television show, *Dog Whisperer*. It's about his unique way of working as he fixes all kinds of behaviour problems with human's best friend.

"It's the owner who creates a good dog," Cesar says. "I'm not a dog trainer. I train people." Sometimes he has to be creative when training pet owners. But he also knows the secrets to raising a happy dog. "Feed its body, mind and heart with exercise, mental stimulation, rewards and affection." Here are three of Cesar's most memorable cases.



4 THINGS YOUR DOG WANTS YOU TO KNOW

- 1 Set up your dog to succeed. Teach it what you *want* it to do, rather than disciplining it for what you *don't* want.
- 2 A dog's favourite treat is spending time with you.

Whisperer

TINKLED PINK



THE CHALLENGE Kisses' problem wasn't that her life was pink. Generally, Maltese are sweet, friendly little dogs that love people. But when visitors came to her home, she'd get overexcited and have, uh, an "accident." Inappropriate urination is not an uncommon response by young female dogs. Most grow out of it, but sometimes it becomes a learned response, or habit, to a specific situation. Kisses meant it as an expression of respect, but that's just not a great way to greet guests. With Cesar's help, owner Kitten taught Kisses to greet people calmly at the door, accident-free.

LESSON LEARNT Whenever a dog's behaviour is unwanted, teach it a new response to that situation. For example, say a dog that loves people has been mistakenly rewarded for jumping on them. Rather than letting the dog jump to get attention, teach it to sit instead. Reward it when it's seated calmly. Through repetition and rewards, the dog learns the new, appropriate response. Be patient. It takes practise and treats and the whole family must be willing to help.

LOVE BITES – NOT



THE CHALLENGE Bandit was a spoiled Chihuahua that thought he owned his owner, Lori. He'd bite anyone who got near her, even Lori's family. Lori thought it was cute and he was just being possessive, so she was annoyed when Cesar told her the dog needed to change. "She had it wrong," he says. "Caring for the dog didn't mean she shouldn't protect her children and husband."

LESSON LEARNT A biting dog, no matter the size, is unacceptable and unsafe. Working with her family and Cesar, Lori taught Bandit that his role was to be a loving family pet, not a guard dog. Bandit's biting showed he was afraid. He had to see that Lori was there as the pack leader to protect and show the way. "That built Bandit's confidence and trust in his owner," Cesar says. Now the dog can also share his love with the rest of Lori's family in a safe, appropriate way.

CAREER CHANGE



THE CHALLENGE Gavin, a Labrador retriever and a military service dog, had just returned home after time with the army overseas. He needed to find a new job as a family pet. But changing roles from soldier to civilian wasn't easy. Gavin was afraid of loud sounds and other things which made him think he was back in the war. "Gavin was a workaholic," Cesar says. "So I gave him a new job." Gavin started caring for a rescued pregnant dog and spent his first few months as a civilian watching over the pooch and her pups. Soon he was adopted by a human family he could care for.

LESSON LEARNT A dog without purpose will find one. Unfortunately, it might be shredding shoes, digging holes or chewing on a couch. But with the proper training a family dog's job can include positive activities, such as taking its humans for walks, chasing a Frisbee or "helping" them rake leaves.

Catch the *Dog Whisperer* on Friday evenings on the National Geographic Channel on DStv.

3 Your voice, energy and body language reveal a lot to a dog. Use calm, patient and gentle training techniques. It's not *what* you say or do, it's *how* you say or do it.

4 Reward your dog with touch, toys, treats and attention.

Wacky World

check out these bizarre roadside attractions from around the globe.

BY ELISABETH DEFFNER

Eiffel Tower? Great Pyramid? Please. *These* unusual landmarks definitely would be something to write home about on your next international holiday. Take a look at some postcard-worthy attractions.

LARRY THE LOBSTER

Kingston South East, Australia

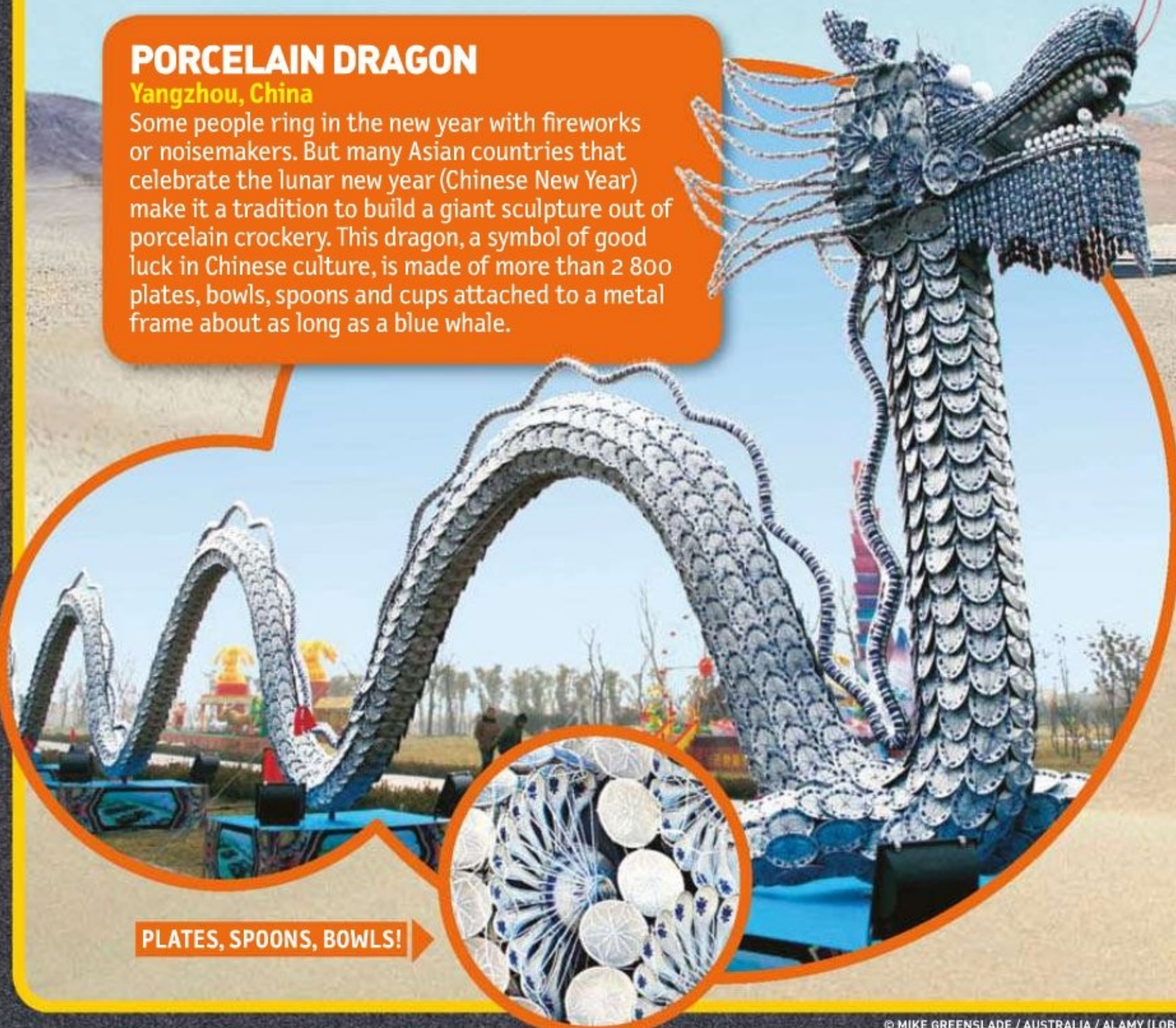
Visitors to the Big Lobster restaurant don't have to read a sign to know what kind of food they'll be eating. After all, a 17-metre-tall spiny lobster towers over the building. Larry is one of Australia's "Big Things", a series of giant tourist attractions along the country's roads. With all the attention Larry and his pals have really come out of their shells.



PORCELAIN DRAGON

Yangzhou, China

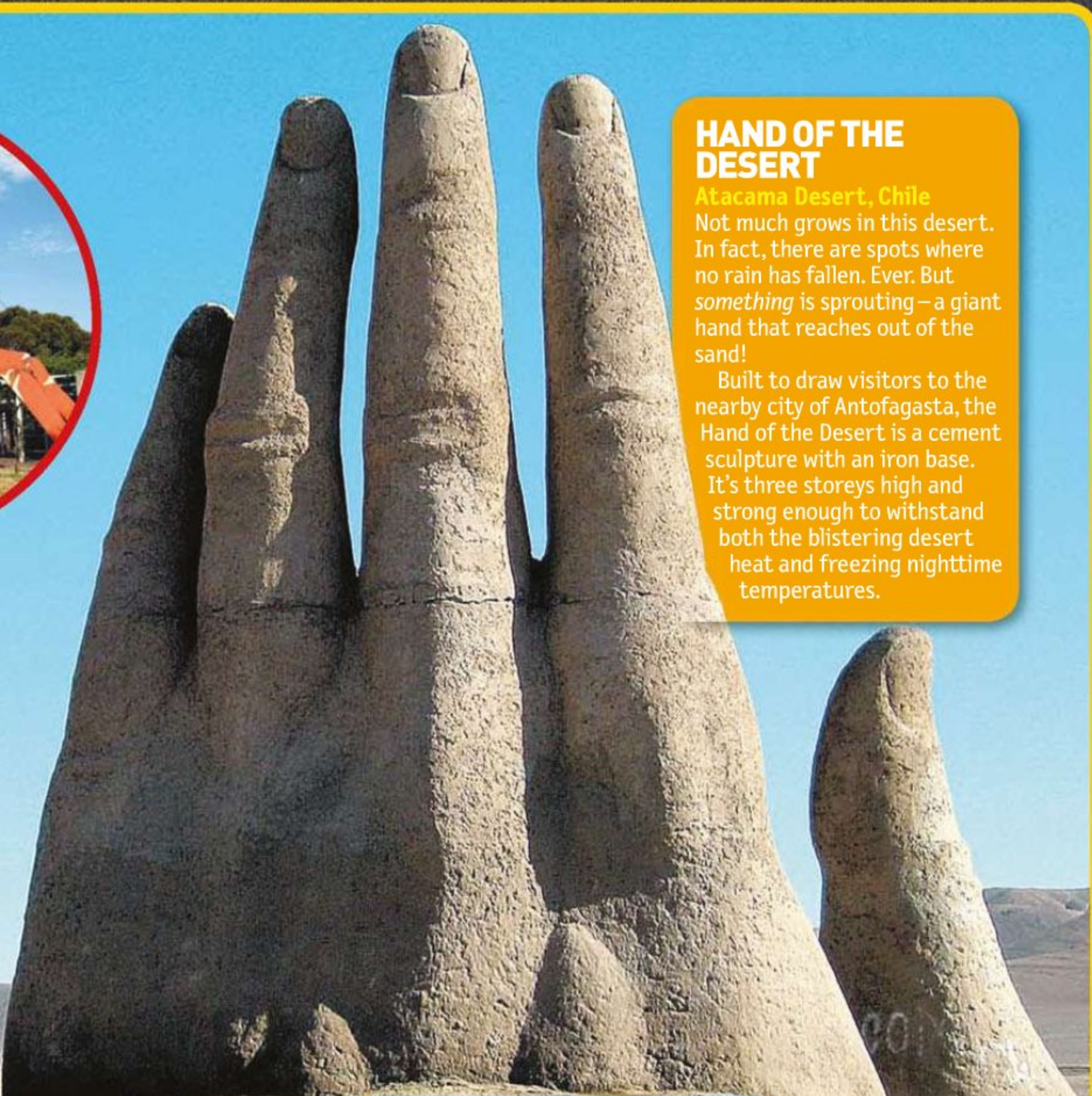
Some people ring in the new year with fireworks or noisemakers. But many Asian countries that celebrate the lunar new year (Chinese New Year) make it a tradition to build a giant sculpture out of porcelain crockery. This dragon, a symbol of good luck in Chinese culture, is made of more than 2 800 plates, bowls, spoons and cups attached to a metal frame about as long as a blue whale.



PLATES, SPOONS, BOWLS!



© MIKE GREENSLADE / AUSTRALIA / ALAMY (LOBSTER); © ZHANG BINGTAO / XINHUA PRESS / CORBIS (DRAGON); XINHUA / LANDOV (DISHWARE); © FRANCISCO MARTINEZ / ALAMY (SHARK); © ROLF HAID / DPA / CORBIS (HAND); MIINA ÄKKIJYRKÄ (ARTIST: COW SCULPTURE), JUHA METSO (COW SCULPTURE PHOTO);



HAND OF THE DESERT

Atacama Desert, Chile

Not much grows in this desert. In fact, there are spots where no rain has fallen. Ever. But *something* is sprouting – a giant hand that reaches out of the sand!

Built to draw visitors to the nearby city of Antofagasta, the Hand of the Desert is a cement sculpture with an iron base. It's three storeys high and strong enough to withstand both the blistering desert heat and freezing nighttime temperatures.

CAR COWS

Helsinki, Finland

This is a weird farm. An artist buys used cars and trucks and attaches a hubcap here, a door there to build cow statues that are up to three metres tall. So far six of them dot the landscape. That's really milking recycling for all it's worth!



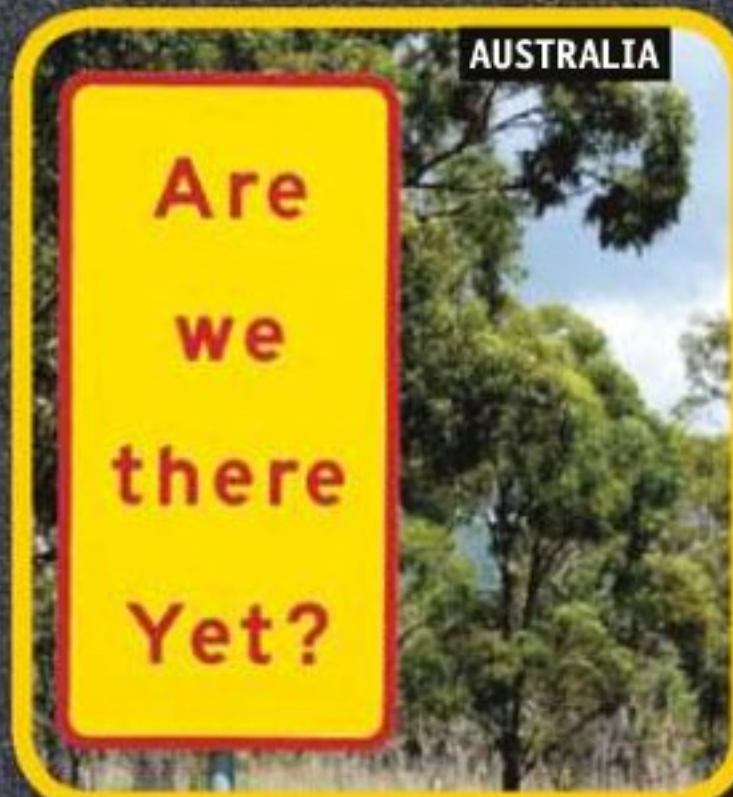
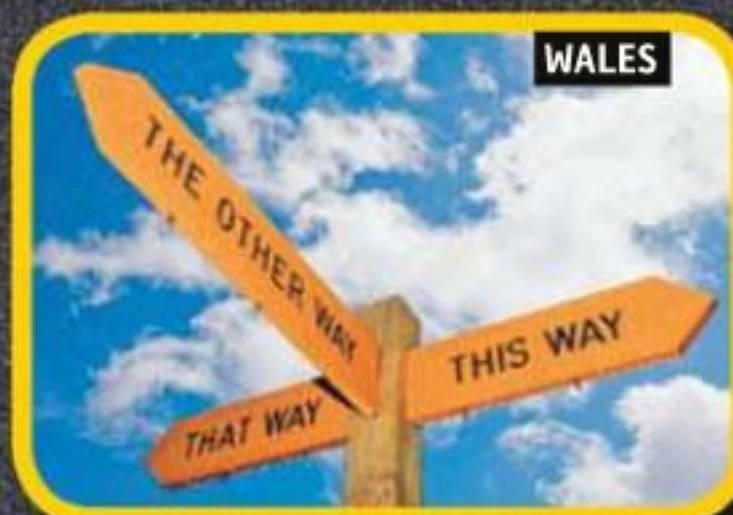
HEADINGTON SHARK

Headington, England

Just when you thought it was safe to go into the attic... a shark plunges through the roof! Two cranes lifted the shark over the house and lowered it into a hole that fit the creature's body perfectly. The shark has survived all kinds of predators, including hurricanes and complaints from neighbours. Good thing – it's not like the fish can swim away!

FUNNY SIGNS

Check out these hilarious but real road signs from around the world.



© ASHLEY COOPER / CORBIS (OTHER WAY); TORSTEN BLACKWOOD / AFP / GETTY IMAGES (ARE WE THERE YET?); © LAWRENCE WILES / ALAMY (GREAT SNORING); JEAN-CHRISTOPHE GODET / GETTY IMAGES (SALTY WATER); © BO ZAUNDERS / CORBIS (LEPRECHAUN)



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Rock and Roll



People at the Party on Wheels festival are really flipping! All of the small scenes above are upside down or sideways. Find each small scene in the big picture.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 50

What in the World?

DOWN UNDER

These photographs show close-up and faraway views of things in Australia. Unscramble the letters to identify each picture.

Bonus: Use the highlighted letters to solve the puzzle below. ANSWERS ON PAGE 50



NREMBOGAO



OAAKL



RTEGA ARERIBR
FREE



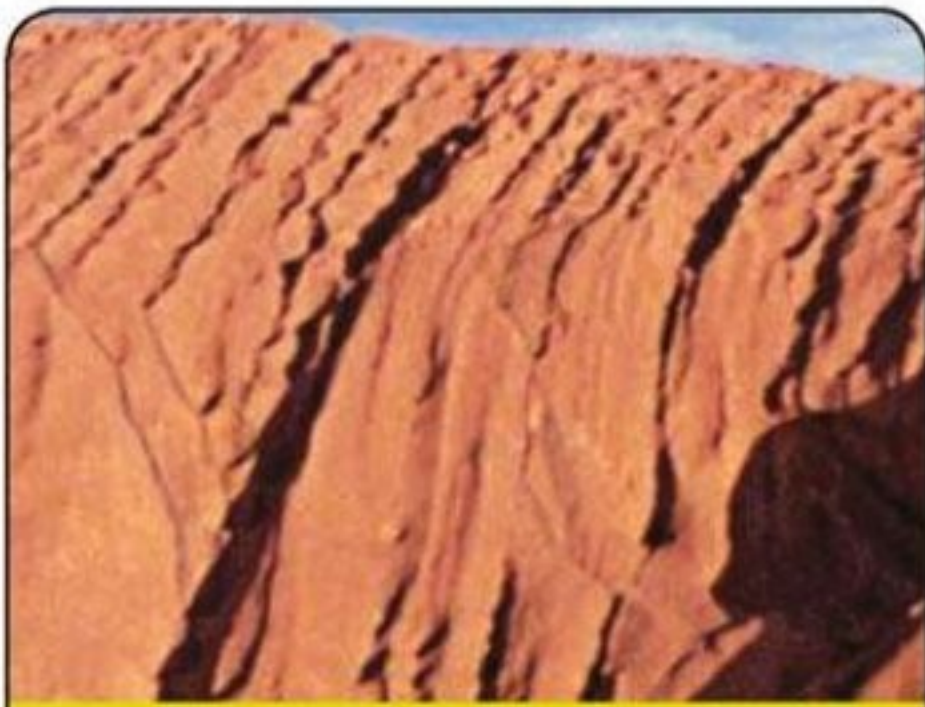
ORNGAAKO



LAFG



DRSRBFUOSA



SREAY CKOR



AWSCYSAOR



DENYYS EORAP
OESUH

HINT: Here's what you call a friend in Australia who's really strong.

ANSWER: **M** **T**

TOP ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): KHARIDHAL ABHIRAMA ASHWIN / SHUTTERSTOCK; © GARY BELL / OCEANWIDEIMAGES; © TED ALLOFS / CORBIS. MIDDLE ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): © AGE FOTOSTOCK / SUPERSTOCK; SIMON WILKINSON / GETTY IMAGES; © JTB PHOTO COMMUNICATIONS, INC. / ALAMY. BOTTOM ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): HARVEY LLOYD / GETTY IMAGES; ANDY GEHRIG / GETTY IMAGES; © AGE FOTOSTOCK / SUPERSTOCK.

Funny Fill-in

Disaster Class

BY MARGARET J. KRAUSS

Ask a friend to give you words to fill in the blanks in this story without showing it to him or her. Then read out loud for a laugh.



My class had been waiting for _____ months to do a fun chemistry experiment. Today we were going to learn how to _____ out of _____. “First dissolve one gram of _____ in one litre of water. Then _____ the mixture,” said my teacher, Mr _____. Before I had finished, he was already giving more instructions. To keep up, I _____ a pinch of _____ and threw it into a cup of _____. “Now _____ it for two minutes,” he said. Trying to hurry, I added a few _____ and _____, then _____ it three times. Suddenly the air around me turned _____ and smelled like _____. My lab partner dived under the _____ as the mixture began to _____. Then the experiment _____ all over the room, covering everyone in _____ goo. That wasn’t quite the reaction I was looking for!



Mother's Day surprise

MOTHER'S DAY IS ON 13 MAY 2012!

ASK YOUR DAD OR AN OLDER SIBLING TO HELP WITH BUYING AND PREPARING THE FOOD.



- WHAT YOU DO:**
1. Get up before your mum.
 2. Cut out the coupons from this page or make your own.
 3. Prepare the muesli, yoghurt and fruit. Add a muffin and make some tea.
 4. Put flowers in a small vase.
 5. Arrange the coupons on the tray, with a serviette and spoon.

Treat your mum to breakfast in bed this Mother's Day. Prepare a tray with her favourite food, beautiful flowers and tea PLUS an extra surprise of gift coupons!

We've left a space for you to personalise your coupons by drawing a picture of your mum on the right of the voucher. She can use her coupons whenever she wants!

ASK AN ADULT TO HELP WHEN CUTTING THESE OUT.

MOTHER'S DAY
COUPON

Hi MUM! I LOVE AND APPRECIATE YOU.

This coupon entitles you to one:
Night off (I'll cook!)



Remove this strip once coupon has been used.

MOTHER'S DAY
COUPON

Hi MUM! I LOVE AND APPRECIATE YOU.

This coupon entitles you to one:
Free car wash



Remove this strip once coupon has been used.

MOTHER'S DAY
COUPON

Hi MUM! I LOVE AND APPRECIATE YOU.

This coupon entitles you to one:
Big hug



Remove this strip once coupon has been used.

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FOR AGES 3 - 6
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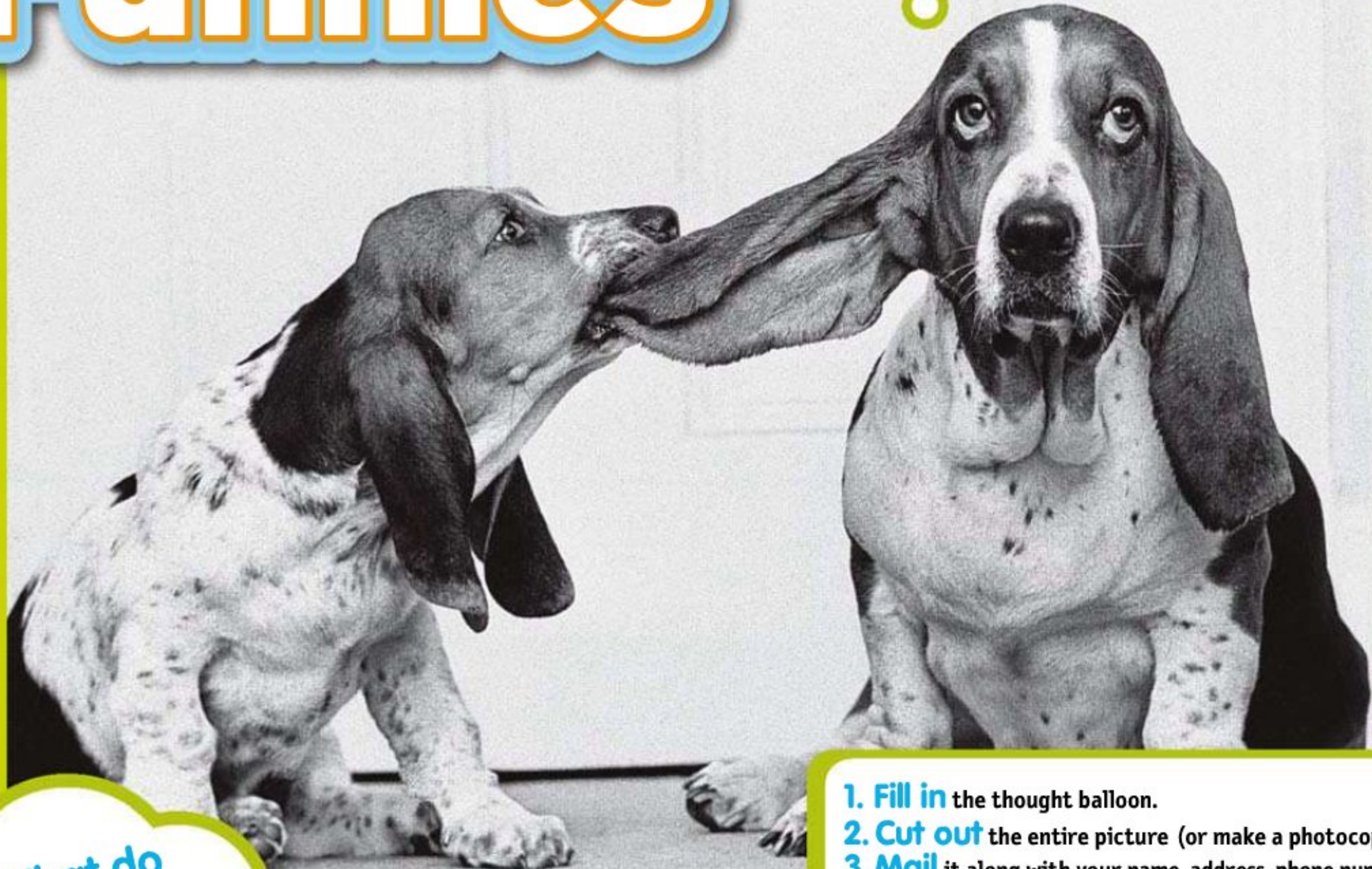


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Photo Funnies



What do YOU think this dog is thinking?

1. **Fill in** the thought balloon.
2. **Cut out** the entire picture (or make a photocopy of it).
3. **Mail** it along with your name, address, phone number and date of birth to NG KIDS Photo Funnies, PO Box 2271, Cape Town 8000. Selection for publication in a future issue will be at the discretion of NG KIDS.



From the November Issue

You have a big bum and you are still fast!

Jessica Howard, 11,
Northwold

Snow down!

Jason le Roux, 12,
Pinelands

Now it's only downhill from here ...

Lindi van Wyk, 10,
Pretoria

Stop monkeying around and jump!

Kayley Prins, 10,
Port Elizabeth

We are so beating the elephants in the snowboarding tournament this year!

Bailey Evans, 13,
Kimberley

Super monkey to the rescue!

Andi Qu, 9,
Johannesburg

Ice is cool!

Natasha Williams, 10,
Claremont

What does "snowball effect" mean?

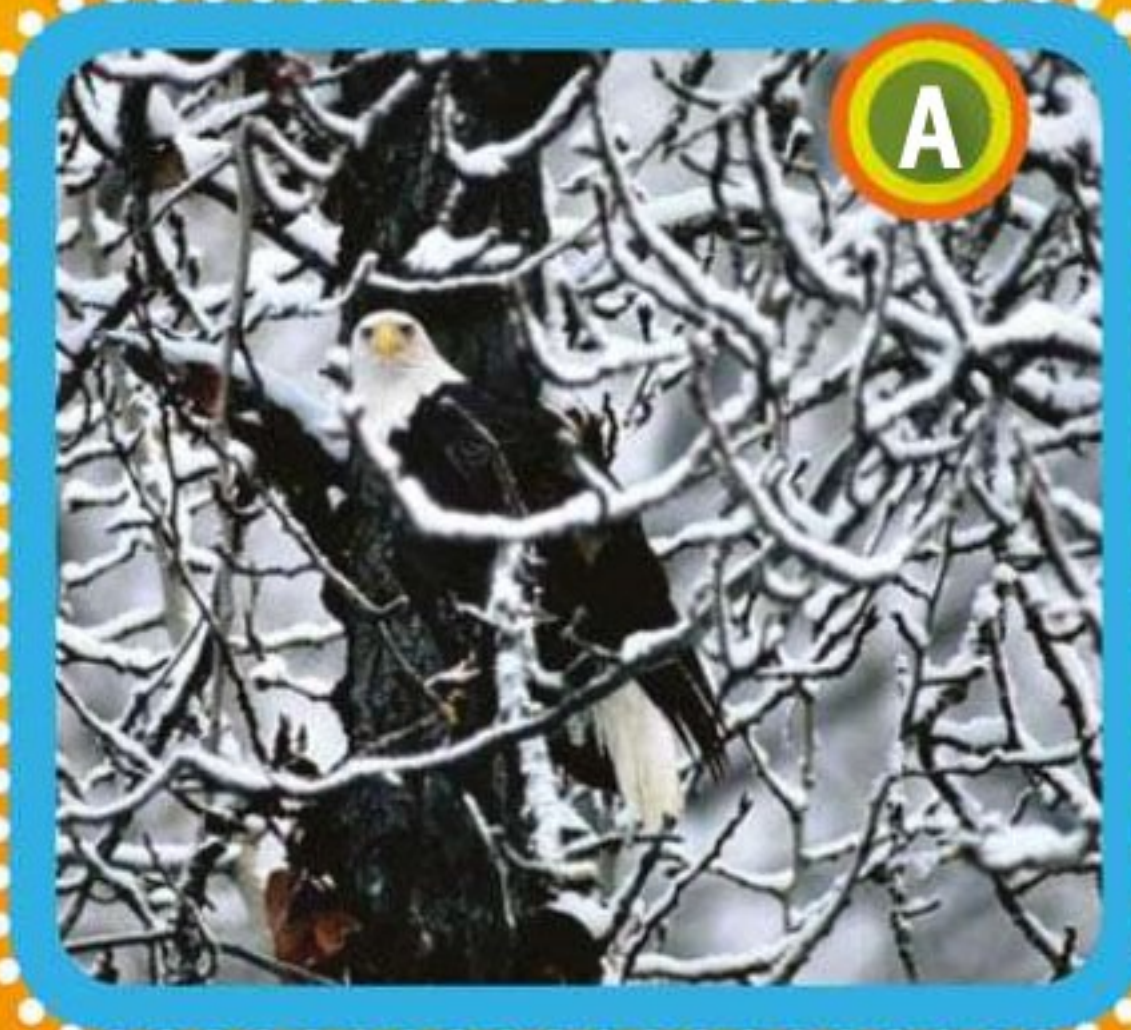
Larissa Mouton, 13,
Cape Town

Find the HIDDEN ANIMALS

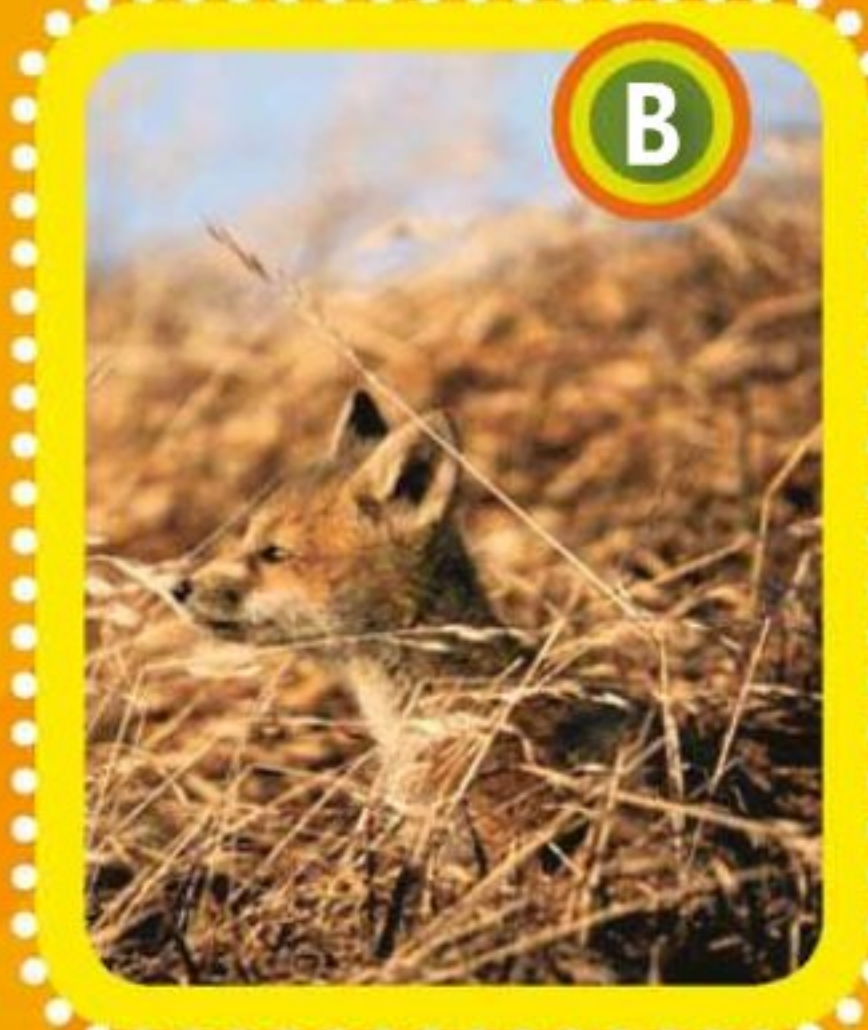
ANIMALS OFTEN BLEND in with their environment for protection. Find the animals listed below in the photographs. Write the letter of the correct photo next to each animal's name. **ANSWERS ON PAGE 50**

1. bald eagle _____
2. frog _____
3. spider _____
4. fox _____
5. jaguar _____
6. viscacha* _____

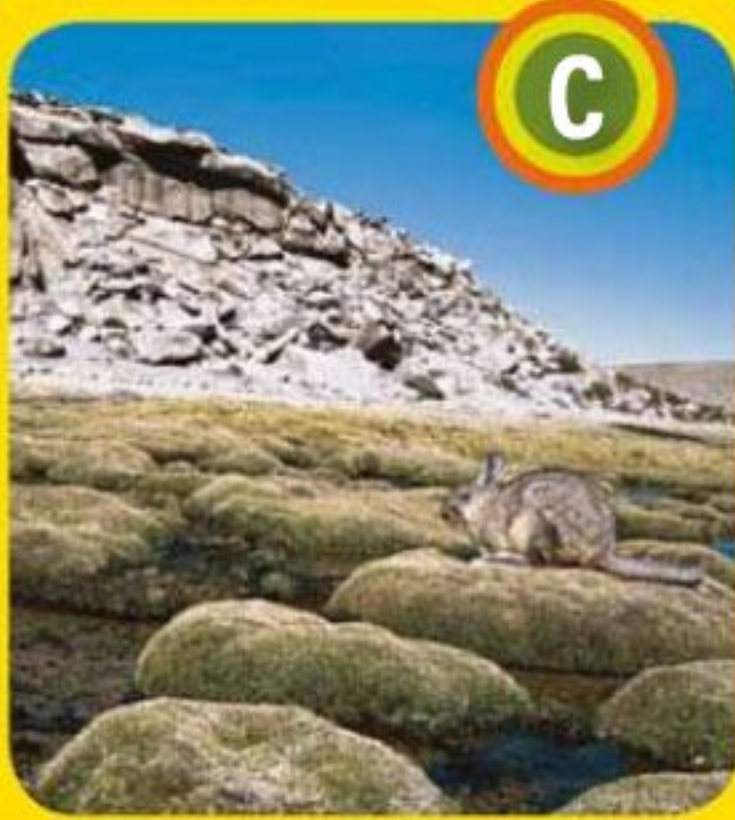
*Hint: A viscacha is a type of rodent that lives in South America.



A



B



C



D



E



F

Art Zone

NG KIDS readers sent us awesome house designs for animals that would make any pet proud!

"My Kat se Huis"
Marco Haughton, 13, De Aar

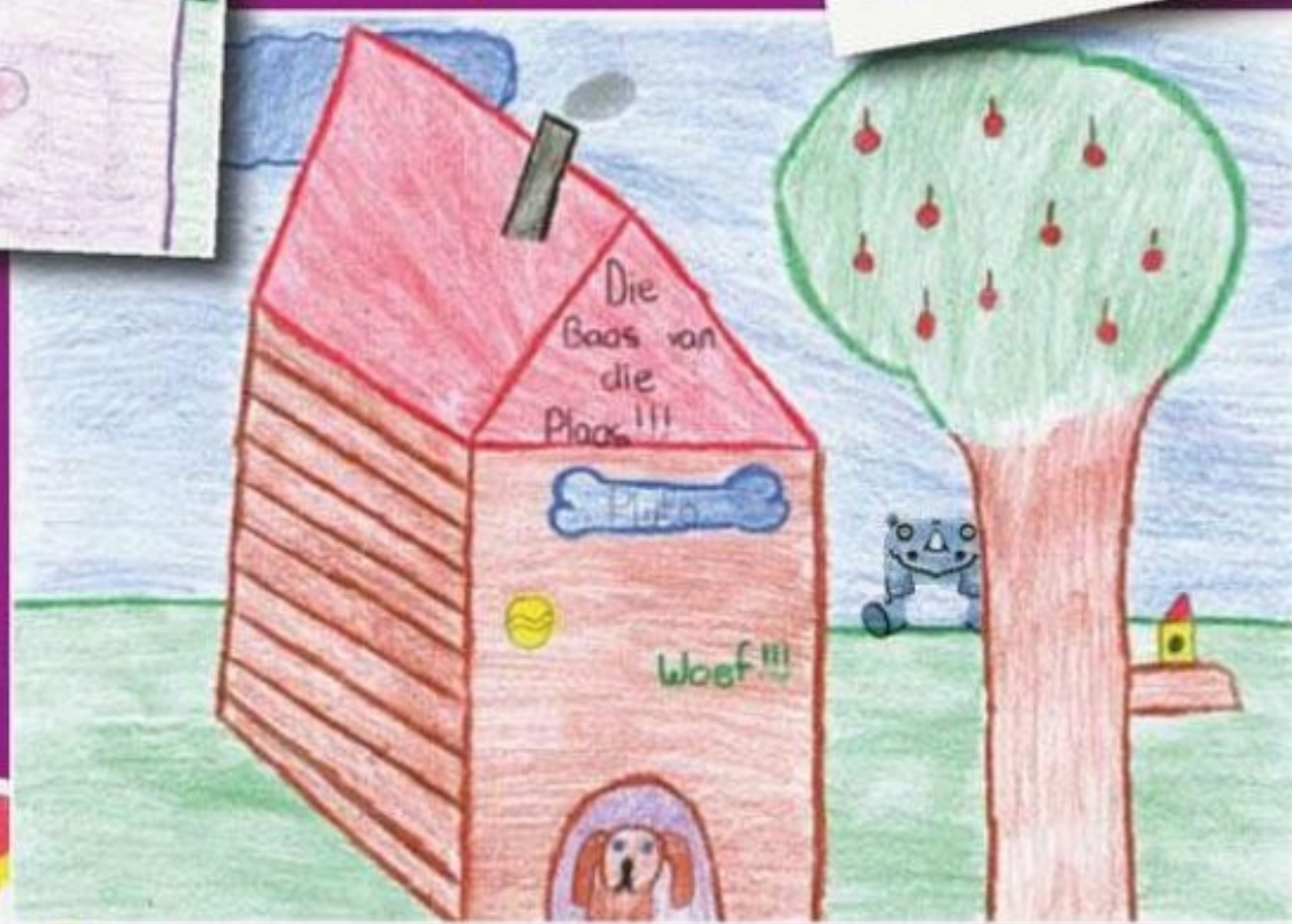


"Die Baas van die Plaas"
Robin Haughton, 16, De Aar



Crazy
Yakira Davidson, 8, Springs

Awesome Firebolt Dog House
Tyler Engelbrecht, 9, Grootbrak River



"Brak se Bont Huis"
Pieter Bruwer, 9, Piketberg



DRAW yourself competing at the Olympic Games

Send your original drawings to
The Editor at NG KIDS,
PO Box 2271, Cape Town 8000.

Include your name, address, phone number, date of birth, a title for your drawing, a statement that it is your own work and the name of your parent or guardian. Your parent or guardian must sign a release for publication of your illustration. Submissions become the property of the National Geographic Society and all rights are transferred to the National Geographic Society. Submissions cannot be acknowledged or returned. Selection will be at the discretion of NG KIDS.

Our Lucky Winners

Our lucky winners from the February issue are:

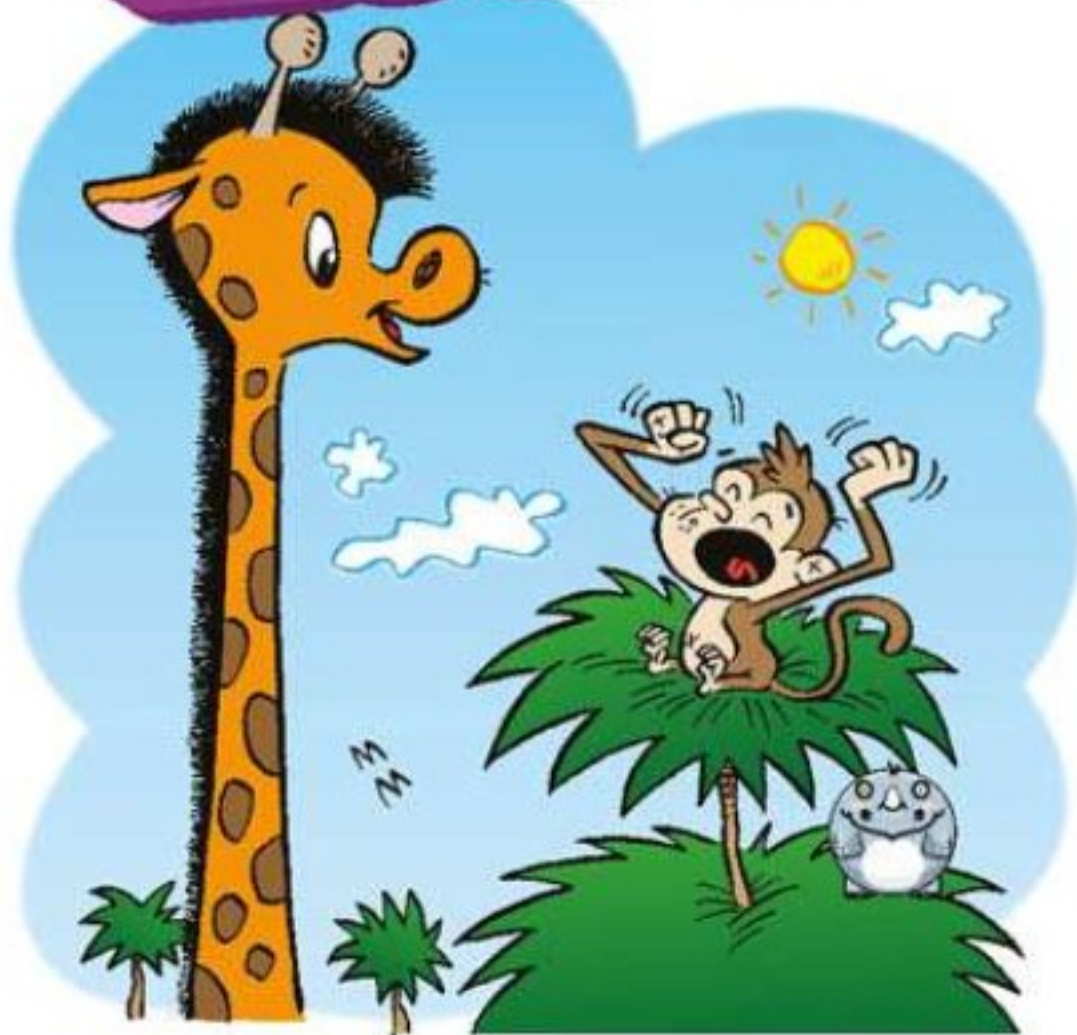
Super Mario 3D Land hampers
Miguel Turraide, Tristan Goncalves

Treasure Buddies DVDs
Connor Haw, Chante van der Merwe,
Joshua Schnetler, Anya Steynberg,
Eneri Botha

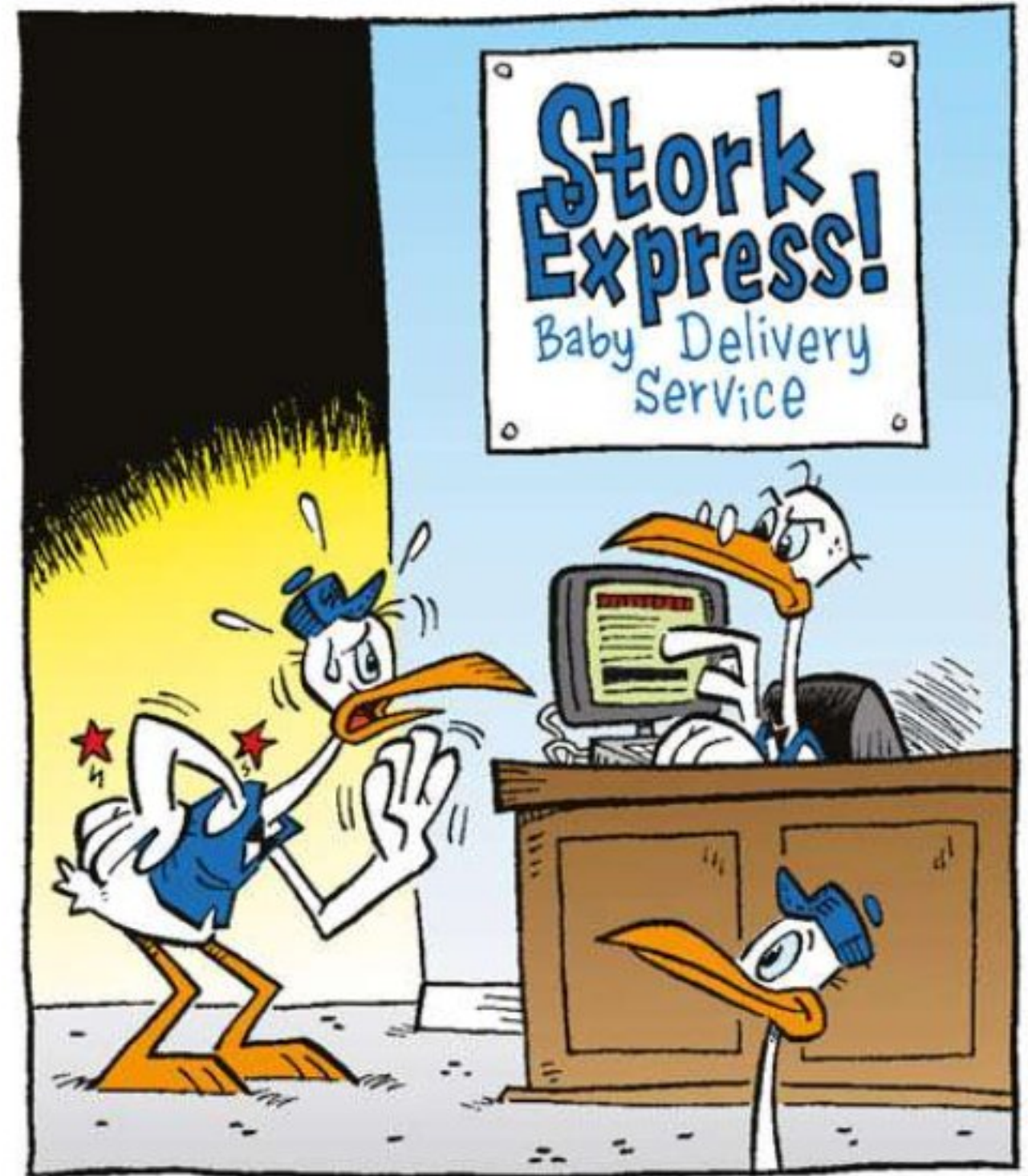
The Muppets hampers
Daniel Lee, Chloe Seydel,
Taylor Hoashrai

Journey 2 hampers
Reza Lambat, Cheyenne Barnard,
Khalil Gibran, Terry Neat, Sashin Gopaul

Laugh Out Loud



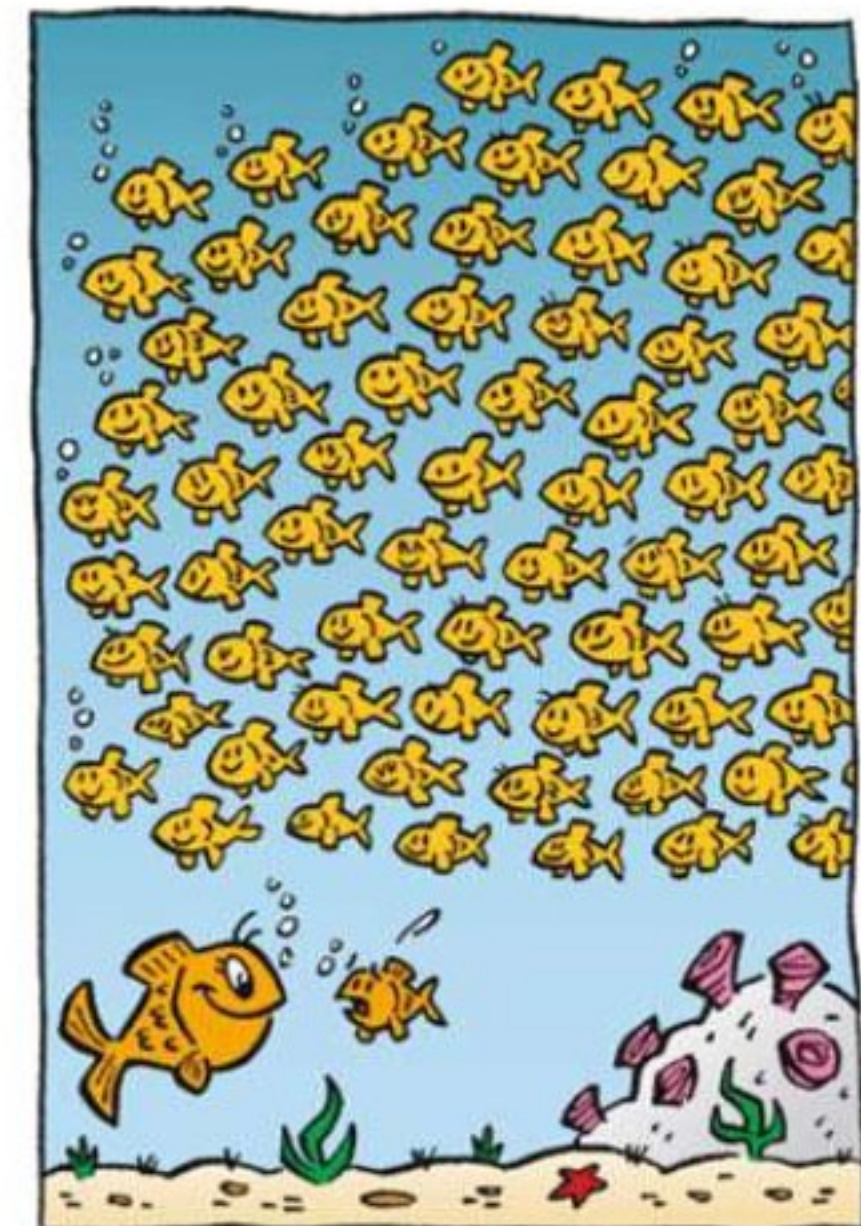
"YOUR MUM SENT ME UP SO YOU WON'T BE LATE FOR SCHOOL AGAIN!"



"OH, NO. NOT ANOTHER SET OF ELEPHANT TRIPLETS!"



"WHEN I SAID 'BREAK A LEG,' I MEANT GOOD LUCK!"



"MUM, DO I REALLY HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL TODAY?"

Just Joking

Lion



**KNOCK,
KNOCK.**

Who's there?
Amos.
Amos who?
A mosquito bit me!

Q Which part of a fish weighs the most?

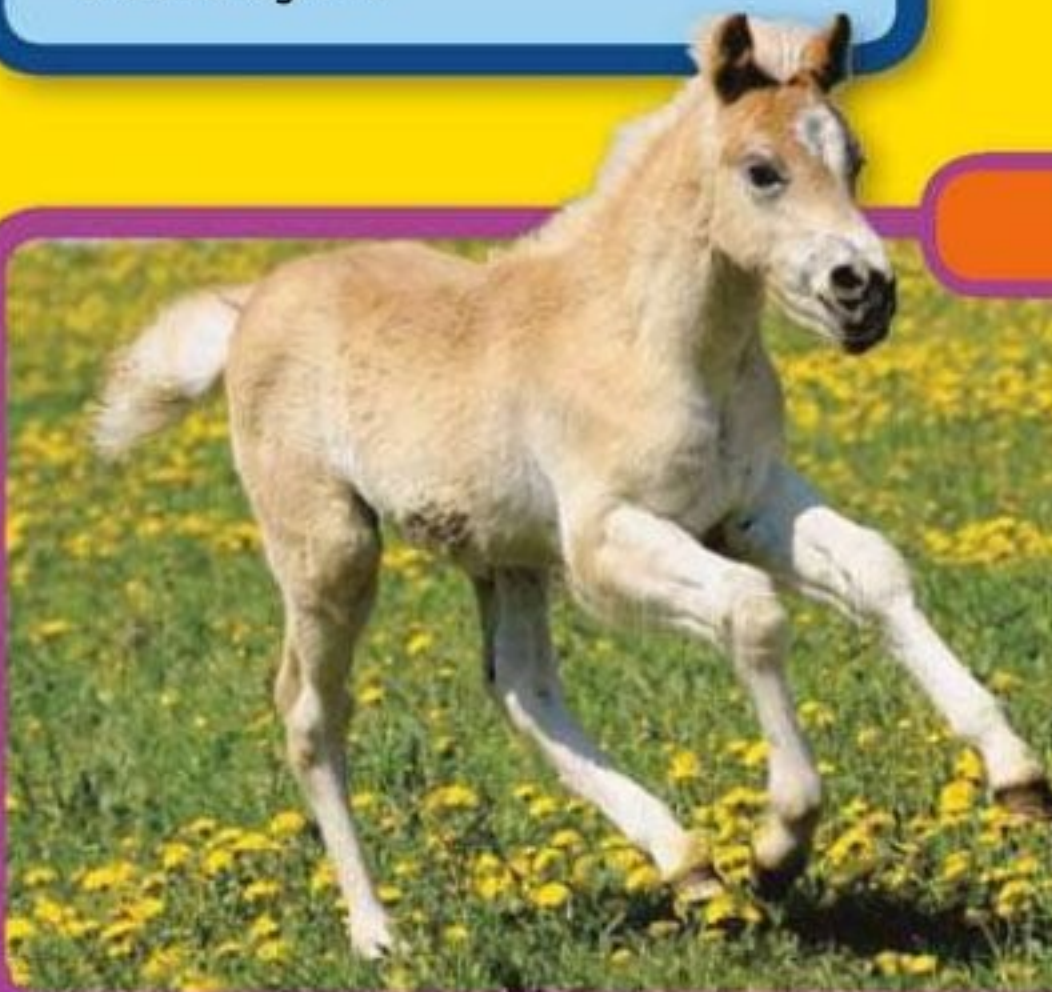


A The scales.



WAITER: Why do you laugh while cooking breakfast?

CHEF: Because the egg always cracks a yolk.



You must be joking...

Q Why did the colt have a sore throat?

A He was a little horse.

Answers

"What in the World?" (page 42):
Top row: boomerang, koda,
Great Barrier Reef. Middle row:
kangaroo, flag, surfboards.
Bottom row: Ayers Rock, cassowary,
Sydney Opera House.
Bonus: a mighty mate



"Rock and Roll" (page 41):

(page 47): 1. A, 2. D, 3. E, 4. B, 5. F, 6. C



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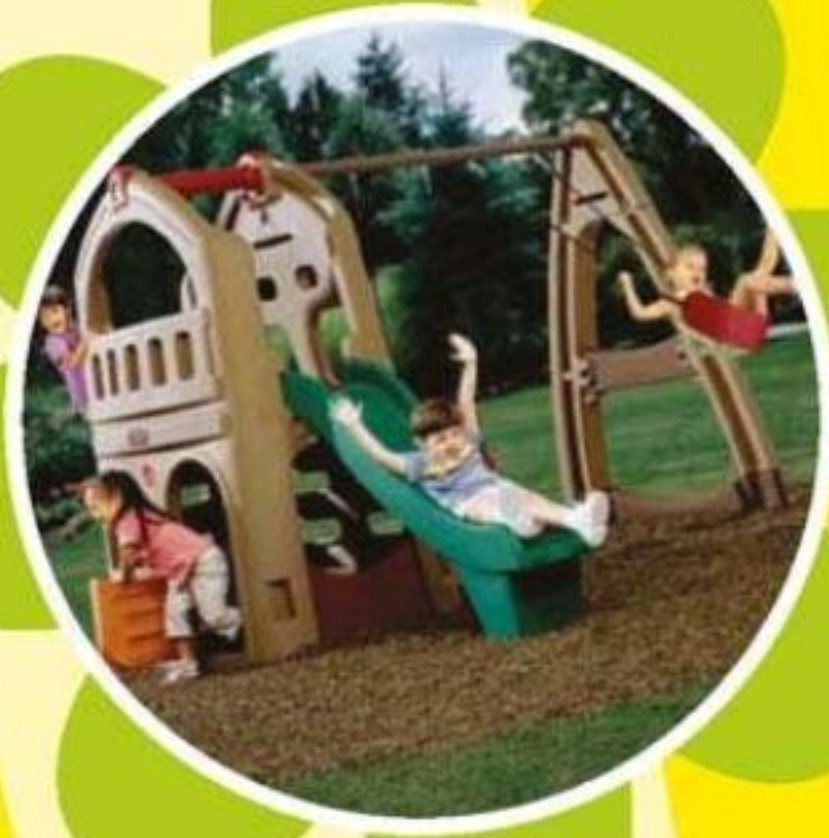
HOW TO:

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